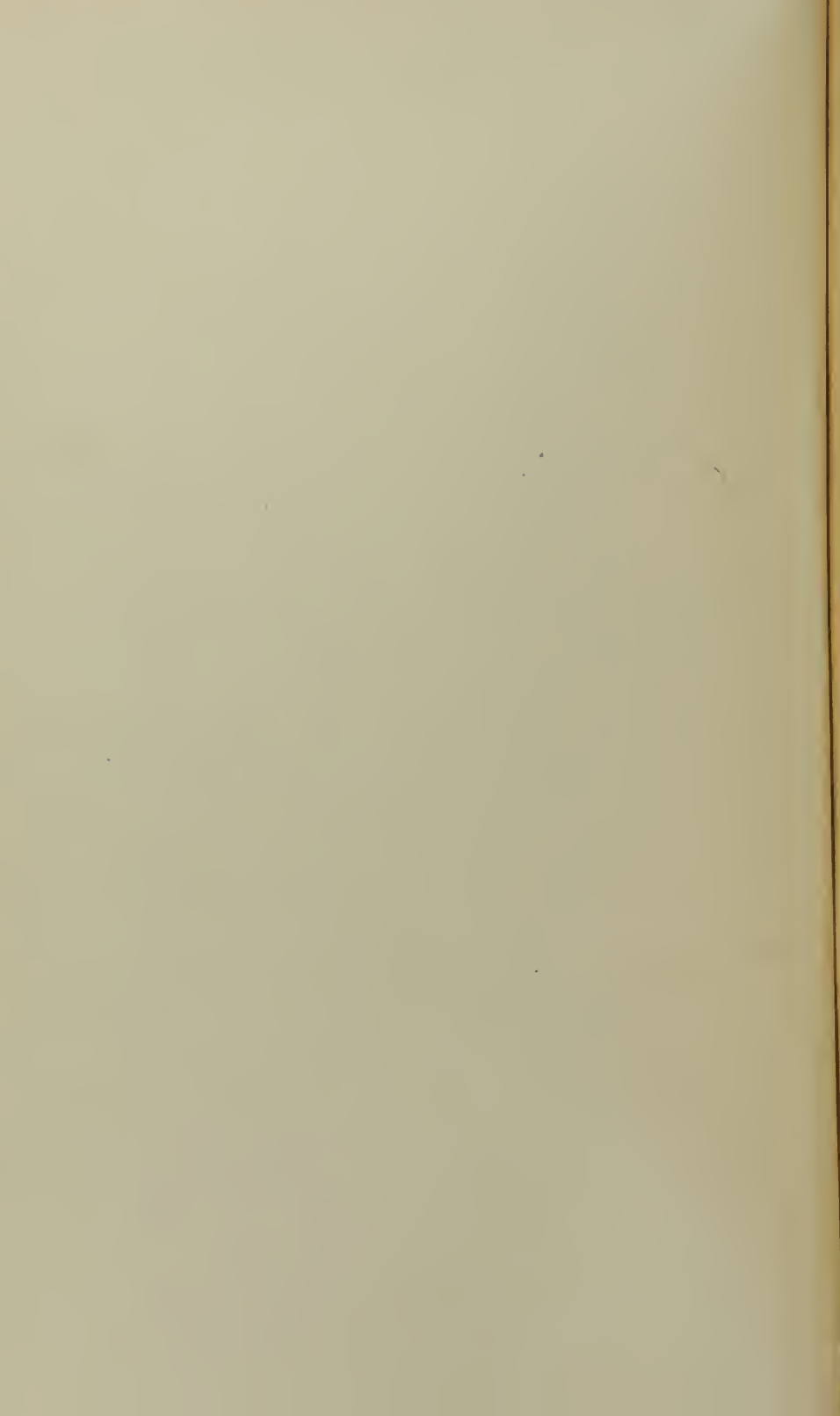


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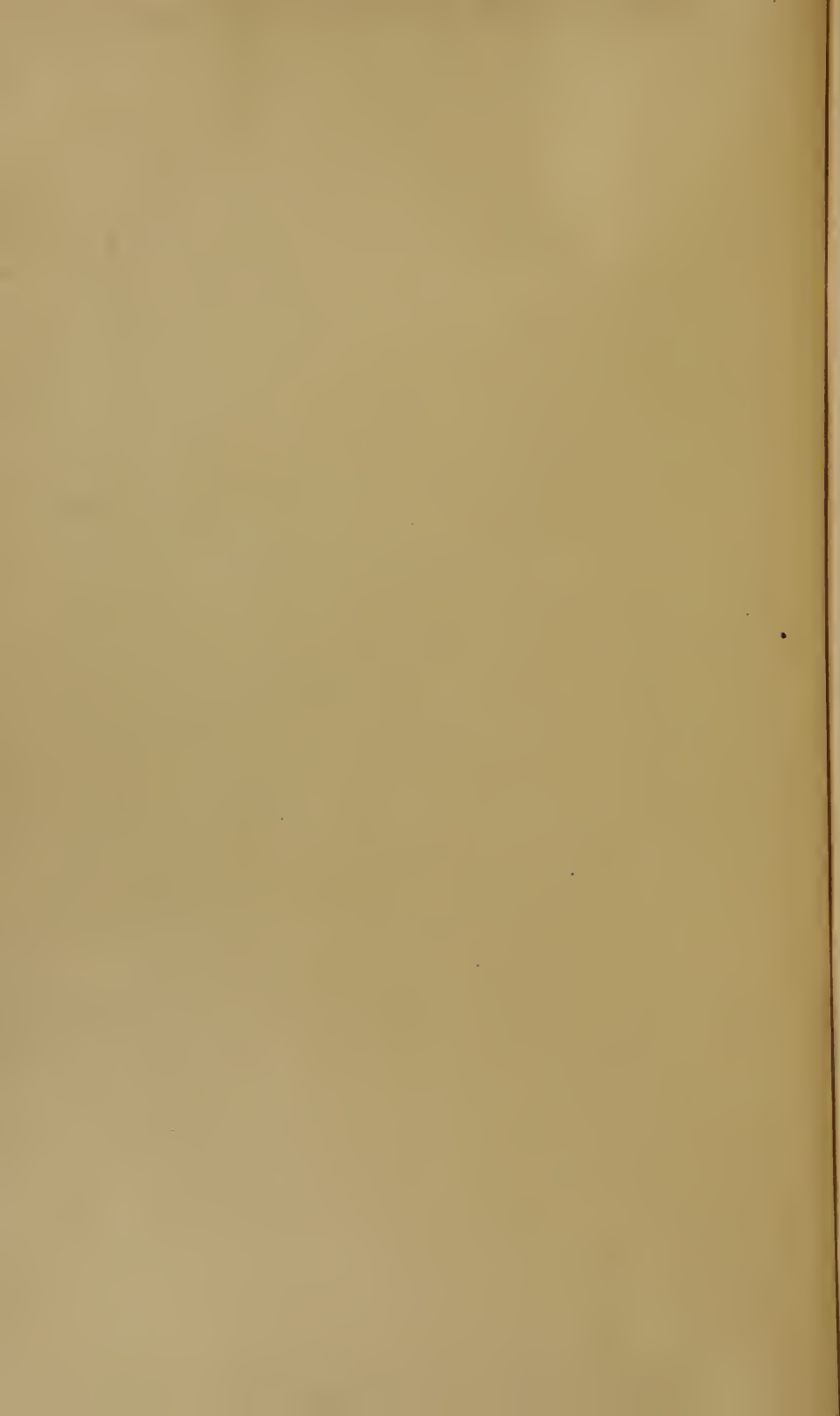
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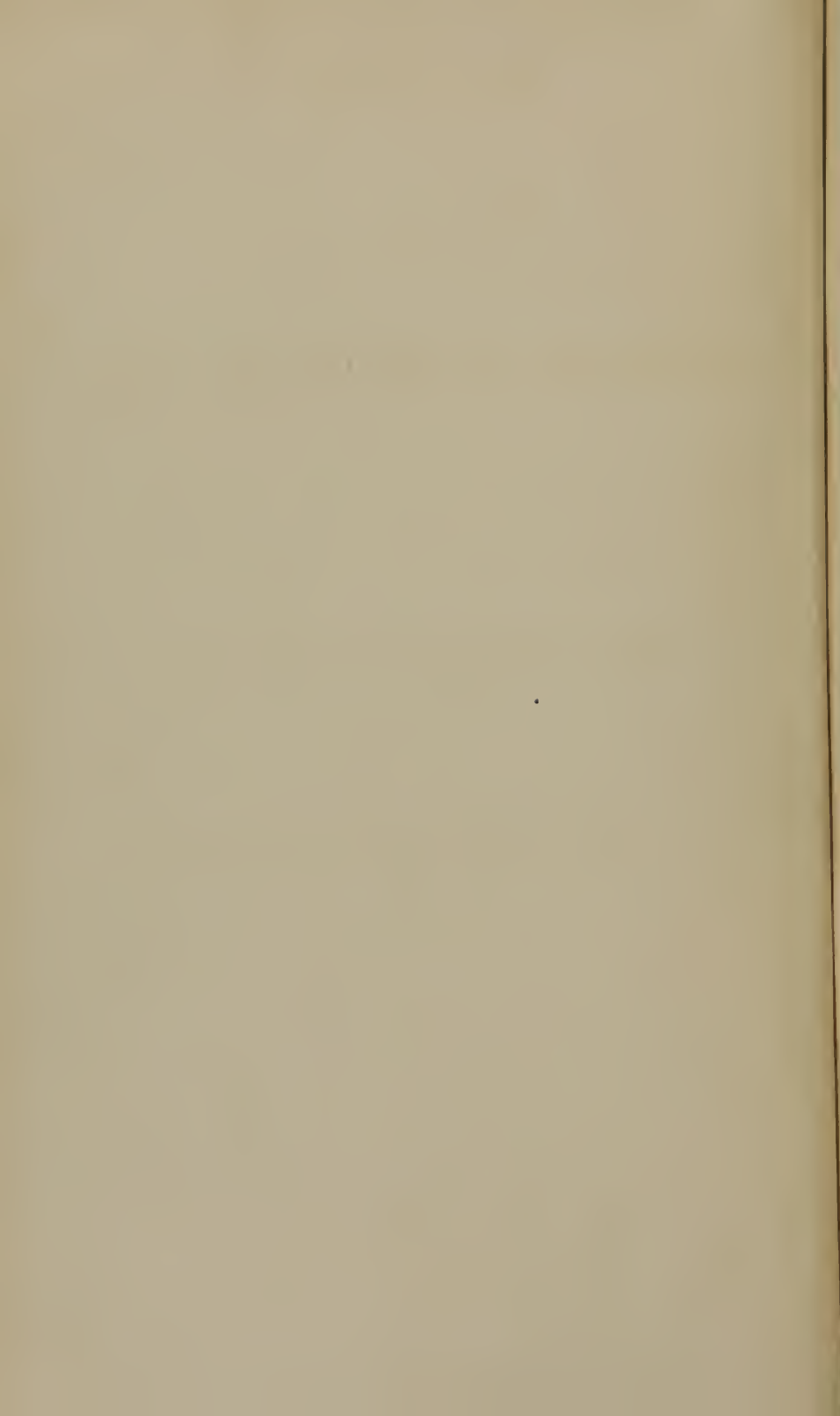














*Rev. L. V. Sprague*  
*with regards of*  
REPORT *S. D. Willard*

ON THE

✓  
CONDITION OF THE INSANE POOR

IN THE

COUNTY POOR HOUSES OF NEW YORK.

By SYLVESTER D. WILLARD, M. D.  
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ALBANY :

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# State of New York.

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No. 19.

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## IN ASSEMBLY,

January 13, 1865.

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### REPORT

ON THE CONDITION OF THE INSANE POOR IN THE COUNTY  
POOR HOUSES OF NEW YORK.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, }  
ALBANY, N. Y., *January 12, 1865.* }

To the Hon. G. G. HOSKINS,

*Speaker of the Assembly:*

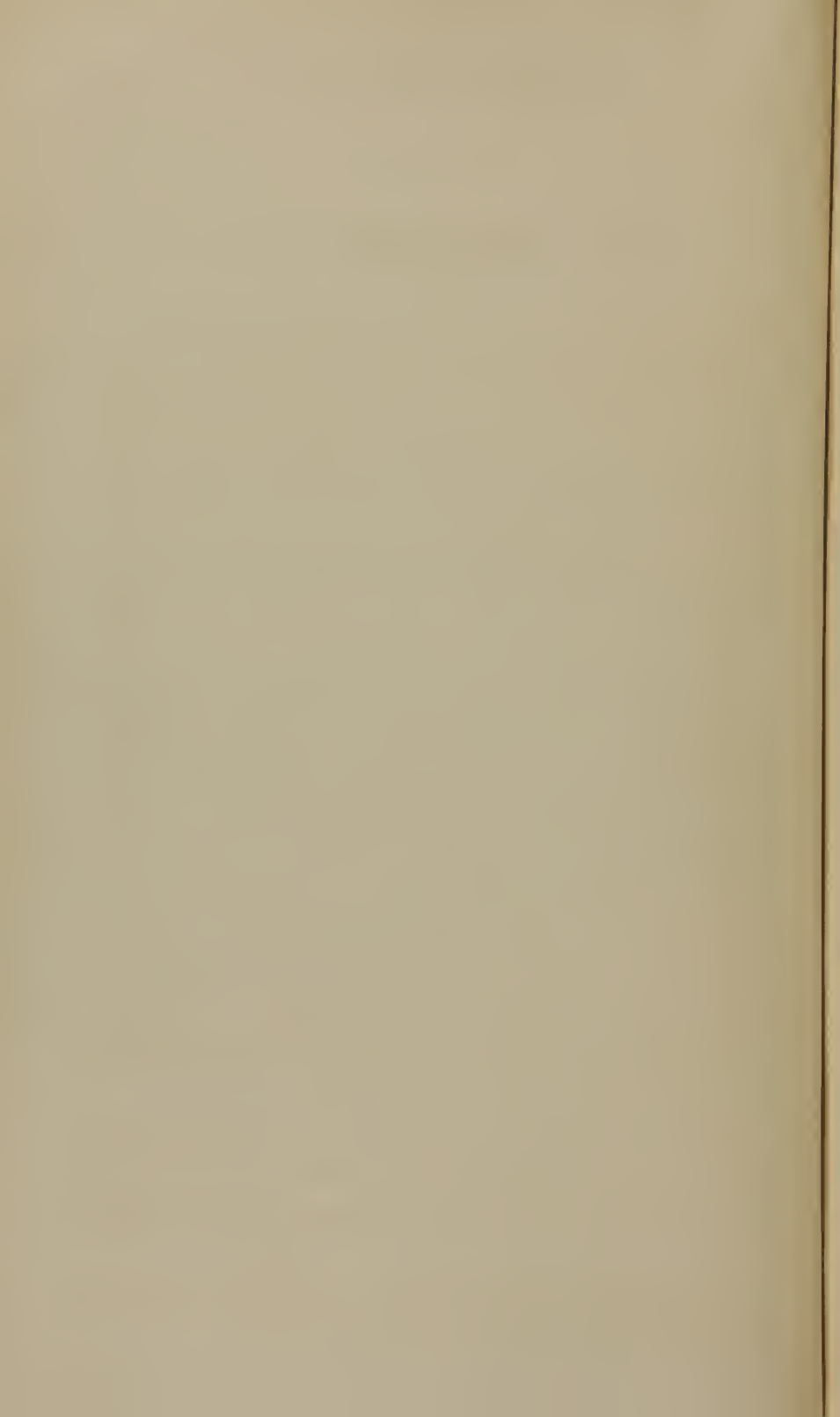
SIR—In obedience to chapter 418, Session Laws of 1864, I beg to submit to the Legislature the following report in relation to the condition of the insane poor in the county poor houses of the State. In doing this, I must urge upon your honorable body that immediate measures be taken for the relief of this most unfortunate class of the community.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

SYLVESTER D. WILLARD,

*Secretary.*



## REPORT.

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*To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York:*

As Secretary of the Medical Society of the State of New York, I was authorized by an act passed on the 30th day of April, 1864, to investigate the condition of the insane poor in the various poor houses, alms houses, insane asylums, and other institutions, where the insane poor are kept, not including, however, such institutions as are now required by law to report to the Legislature of the State.

The law\* directed that I should arrange a series of questions, such as in my judgment would be likely to elicit the greatest amount of information on this subject, procure them printed, and transmit them to each county judge in the State. It directed the county judge on the reception thereof, to appoint a competent physician, a resident of the county, to visit the county poor house, or institution where the insane poor are kept, and to examine into the condition and treatment of the insane inmates, and to transmit the result of the investigation to the undersigned. It directed me, thereupon, to condense the information so received, and report the same to your honorable body.

Previous to entering upon this duty, I visited Dr. John P. Gray, the Superintendent of the New York State Asylum at Utica, and Drs. George Cook and John B. Chapin,

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\* It is due to acknowledge that this investigation was instigated by Dr. Wm. H. Richardson, of Essex; Dr. C. M. Crandall, of Allegany; Dr. W. H. Barnes, of Columbia, and Dr. Julien T. Williams, of Chautauqua, Members of Assembly, and on the committee of public health in 1864. They were all earnest in support of the measure.

Superintendents of Brigham Hall Asylum for the insane at Canandaigua, for the purpose of conferring with them, relative to the more important facts that should be developed by this investigation, with a view to the practical results to be attained by it. It is proper, though almost needless to remark, that the plan of this investigation met the cordial approbation of those gentlemen, together with the kind offer to bestow any assistance they could render to facilitate so important a labor. It is unnecessary to speak in this report of the cruelties that were practiced upon the insane in a less civilized age, but the object will be so far as possible to direct our attention to the misery and wretchedness that still exist, in the hope of inducing measures for its aversion in the future.

The attention of the Legislature was drawn to the condition of the insane poor in 1857, by an elaborate report of the select committee of the Senate, appointed in 1856, to visit the charitable institutions supported by the State, and city and county poor and work houses and jails. The committee consisted of Senators Mark Spencer, George W. Bradford and M. Lindley Lee. They entered with enthusiasm upon their mission. Their visits were made during the summer, when the population of the poor houses was one quarter less than in winter. It is apparent, therefore, that they did not witness the suffering incident to winter, when the sleeping rooms would be over-crowded, when the want of fuel, and bedding and clothing would be most felt. But the miseries in which they found the insane poor confined in the various county poor houses are appalling, and shocking to record. Doubtless that report stimulated some

of the county authorities to remove to some extent the stigma and disgrace it fastened upon them, but it led in most instances to no permanent improvement, nor did the State act in view of it to a more ample provision for these unfortunates. The Medical Society of the State has likewise in years past, directed the attention of the Legislature to the importance of more ample provision for the insane, but its suggestions have been likewise unheeded.

The New York State Asylum at Utica, is an institution in every respect worthy of the great State by whose liberality it was erected, and is now supported. Grand as is the scale on which it is conducted, it is not sufficient to meet the claims that are made upon it.

In order to make room for recent cases, and such as afford promise of relief or cure by treatment, and those are constantly urging for admission, and humanity demands that they shall not be turned away, it becomes necessary for that institution to return to the counties by which they have been supported at the asylum, many chronic and incurable cases. Such insane persons are therefore sent to the county poor houses, where others are confined who have never been able to gain admittance at the State Asylum, or who have been untimely removed for new patients. In many of the county houses there are a large number of the insane inmates who have never been sent by the authorities to the asylum. Indeed the law gives county officers no authority to send cases of more than one year's duration to the State Asylum. In many instances the counties have had little or no disposition to send recent cases there, prompted by the idea that they can be supported at a less

expense in a county poor house. The State has grown immensely in population, and in due ratio the number of its insane have increased, until its State Asylum is filled to its utmost capacity, and the tide of its overflow has set back upon county poor houses; and they too, have become filled to an excess of human misery, degradation and wretchedness that wrings a cry of distress from the heart of every philanthropist. These evils have become so great and so glaring, that they are a stigma upon the class of our charitable institutions where insane poor are confined, upon our communities, and upon the fair name of our State. It is in vain that we any longer attempt to conceal the true condition of lunatics in county poor houses, or to pacify the pleadings of humanity in their behalf, with the excuse that a great war is involving our public attention, and that we cannot remedy their condition now. Humanity will listen to no such false representation. Truth will not bear testimony to such an excuse. The facts elicited by this investigation are too appalling to be forgotten, and too important to be thrown aside. Repulsive to our sensibilities, as many of the facts set forth are, the investigation was made in the summer when the suffering from want of care and clothing is less than in winter, and consequently it does not show the state of things as bad as they really exist at some seasons of the year.

The following is the series of questions sent to each county.

- What is the population of your county house?
- How many insane are there at present provided for?
- How many males are capable of labor?
- How many females are capable of labor?
- How many males perform out of door labor?



- How many females perform out of door labor?  
 What amusement have those who are unable to work?  
 What amusement have females who are unable to work?  
 What number are destructive and tear off their clothing?  
 How many are restrained by chains or hand-cuffs occasionally?  
 How many constantly?  
 What other forms of mechanical restraints are used?  
 What other means are resorted to for controlling and managing the violent insane?  
 Has the poor house a full supply of water?  
 How many bath tubs are there in it?  
 How often are the insane required to bathe?  
 Is each insane washed, hands and face daily?  
 Is any arrangement made for cleanliness, ventilation and uniformity of heat in winter?  
 Are any insane confined in basement cells?  
 Are any so confined without the privilege of coming daily into the open air?  
 Is the building in which the insane are confined of wood or brick?  
 How many stories?  
 What is the height of each story?  
 What is the length and width of each room?  
 What is the size of each window?  
 Are there any rooms without a window opening out of doors?  
 What are the floors made of?  
 Are any of the basement rooms without a floor?  
 Have you bedsteads in all the rooms?  
 Are the bedsteads of wood or iron?  
 Are they fastened to the floor?  
 Have you double or single beds?  
 How many sleep in one bed?  
 What is the greatest number, in any case, who sleep in one bed?  
 What material do you use for bedding?  
 How many sleep on straw alone, without bedsteads or beds?  
 How often is the straw changed?  
 What is the diet provided each day?  
 How is it distributed to each?  
 How is the building heated in winter?  
 Are all the rooms heated?  
 Is attention paid to the uniformity of heat by a thermometer?  
 What is the temperature maintained?  
 Are any insane confined in rooms without heat, in the winter?  
 Are there any accommodations for the various grades of insane?  
 If so, what?  
 Are they all confined in one ward?  
 How many in single rooms or cells?  
 Are the sexes kept entirely separated?  
 Are male attendants employed to care for female insane?

Are any attendants beside paupers uniformly and constantly employed in the immediate care of the insane?

What is the actual condition of the rooms and cells occupied by insane, as to cleanliness?

What do you think of the atmosphere of the rooms?

Did you look for vermin on their persons?

Did you observe any?

Are any of the pauper insane cared for in private families?

Does your county take care of recent cases?

What changes of under garments have each of the insane?

How many have shoes?

How many had neither shoes nor stockings during the winter?

What number of insane is your county house designed to accommodate?

What is the greatest number ever there confined?

Are the accommodations separate from those of the sane paupers?

How many escaped within a year who were not returned?

How many were removed by their friends?

What provisions are made for medical treatment of the insane?

How often are they actually visited?

Does each case receive care with reference to its ultimate recovery?

Number; name; age; sex; native; foreign; year of admission; occupation; mild; excitable or paroxysmal; violent; filthy; destructive; confined to house; confined in strong rooms; requires mechanical restraint; been treated in an asylum; died during the year; discharged.

The direction to the physician appointed by the county judge is as follows:

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK: }  
ALBANY, N. Y., May 23, 1864. }

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_.

Sir—In obedience to the appointment made by the judge of your county, in accordance with chapter 418, Session Laws 1864, a copy of which you will find herewith, you are requested at an early day to visit your county poor house, alms house or asylum, and make the investigations as indicated in the blanks enclosed. You are requested to give the overseer or superintendent no notice of your appointment or the time of your visit, and upon your arrival to enter at once upon the duties assigned to you. The object is to see every insane inmate, and all the surroundings precisely as they exist in the every day condition of the institution, to discover the evils which exist in the management of the insane poor, and by this well directed effort so bring them to light as to incite a wise and generous legislation in respect to them, with such actual provision for this unfortunate class of our fellow beings as is in accordance with the teachings of science, and the dictates of an enlightened humanity.

Your services will be a claim upon your county, to be audited by your board of supervisors on the voucher of the county judge.

You can retain one set of the blanks for your own personal use, one for the use of the county judge, one for your board of supervisors, and return the remaining two to me, on or before the time specified in section 2d.

Very respectfully yours,

S. D. WILLARD, M.D., *Secretary.*

Returns have been received from all the counties but Onondaga, Clinton, Wyoming and Herkimer. The city and county of New York, among her great public charities, maintains a large and well conducted asylum for the insane on Blackwell's Island. Kings county has also provided properly for her insane poor, and these two counties were not embraced in this investigation.

Oneida county feels the influence of the State Asylum and hence has an institution more satisfactorily conducted than in any of the other counties.

The earnest attention of the Legislature is requested to the subjoined report for each particular county. The facts have been furnished in accordance with the law by a competent physician, resident in the county, who would have no motive for representing them unfavorably.

It is not my intention to set forth fully all the evils that are brought to light by this investigation, in the condition of the insane poor, but to notice briefly a few of the more prominent ones, and then suggest a remedy for these terrible abuses.

The investigation shows gross want of provision for the common necessities of physical health and comfort, in a large majority of the poor houses where pauper lunatics are kept. Cleanliness and ablution are not enforced, indeed, very few of the institutions have even the conveniences for bathing, and many of the buildings are sup-

plied inadequately with water. In a few instances the insane are not washed at all, and their persons besmeared with their own excrements, are unapproachably filthy, disgusting and repulsive. In some violent cases the clothing is torn and strewed about the apartments, and the lunatics continue to exist in wretched nakedness, having no clothing, and sleeping upon straw, wet and filthy with excrements, and unchanged for several days. The number of these cases may not be large, but there should be none such. There exists gross inattention to ventilation, and in frequent instances these unfortunates are denied even the fresh air of heaven. The buildings in many instances are but miserable tenements and were erected without any regard to ventilation. It is impossible from their very construction and arrangement to procure uniformity of pure air, and thus another great principle of health is denied. It will be observed that the returns not unfrequently mention the air of the rooms as "foul," "bad," "unhealthy."

In some of these buildings the insane are kept in cages, and cells, dark and prison like, as if they were convicts, instead of the life-weary, deprived of reason. They are in numerous instances left to sleep on straw like animals, without other bedding, and there are scores who endure the piercing cold and frost of winter without either shoes or stockings being provided for them—they are pauper lunatics, and shut out from the charity of the world where they could at least beg shoes. Insane, in a narrow cell, perhaps without clothing, sleeping on straw or in a bunk, receiving air and light and warmth only through a diamond hole through a rough prison like door, bereft of sympathy and of social life, except it be with a fellow lunatic, with-



out a cheering influence, or a bright hope of the future ! Can any picture be more dismal, and yet it is not over-drawn.

There are but few of the poor house asylums that have any provision for exercise in the open air, or sufficient yards or grounds for it. The mild cases wander about often where they please, but not so the more violent, and in stormy or winter weather all are kept housed together. No system of exercise is established, no amusement is furnished for the weak, the feeble, the melancholic. Each one is allowed to dwell upon and magnify the evils of a disordered mind, and thus become more distressed, confirmed, incurable, demented. No amusements are furnished, no pleasant occupation devised. The violent have only to rave and become more violent, and pace in madness their miserable apartments. These institutions afford no possible means for the various grades of the insane ; the old and the young, the timid and the brazen, the sick, the feeble, and the violent, are herded together without distinction to the character or degree of their madness, and the natural tendency is for all to become irretrievably worse.

There is no uniform system of mild government and restraint of lunatics in poor houses. The attendants for the most part employed to care for them are the pauper inmates of the establishment ! Paupers, who in many instances are depraved by vice, cold, sordid, selfish from poverty, utterly incapable of taking care of themselves ; these are employed to oversee and apply moral and physical means of restraint for the insane ! To paupers is com-

mitted the task of carrying them food and supplying their daily wants. The consequences are the most wicked and cruel neglect, and not unfrequently brutal treatment of these unfortunates, and the punishments inflicted on them are arbitrary, cruel and undeserved. There is an utter destitution of well trained, kind, efficient attendants. The mingling of sane and insane paupers, the male attendants in some instances in the care of female insane, and the commingling of the sexes, in no way promote either restoration or virtue.

Where recent cases are received into a poor house no special attention is generally given to them with reference to their ultimate recovery. The medical attendance is so embarrassed by want of means for general care, that it is impossible to arrive at any satisfactory management of the insane, and it proves as unsatisfactory to the physician as it is without benefit to the patient.

Few of the interior counties have more than thirty lunatics, and several less than twenty. It is impossible to maintain an asylum efficient in all its apartments with such a small number. It would incur an expense quite too large and unnecessary, without commensurate advantage to the inmates.

His Excellency Governor FENTON, in his message to your honorable body, alludes to this subject as follows :

"The Legislature of 1864 directed an investigation into the condition of the insane poor confined in the various county poor houses. A report, by Dr. S. D. Willard, will be duly presented, showing the deplorable condition of this most unfortunate class. There are in fifty-five counties, not including New York and Kings, thirteen hundred and forty-five lunatics, confined in poor houses or poor house asylums, nearly all of whom are incurable ; many have become, and others are fast becoming incurable, from ineffi-

cient care and treatment. The time has arrived when Legislative provision for them should be made. The propriety of establishing an institution for *incurables*—an institution that shall relieve county authorities from the care of the insane, should be deliberately considered.

“More than one-fourth of this number of insane are capable of some labor. To what extent that labor, organized and systematized, might be made productive in the maintenance of an institution, under well directed medical superintendence, is likewise worthy of consideration.”

The suggestion of His Excellency seems entirely practical and economical. Let an institution for incurables be established. Let the incurables be there colonized. Take the insane from the counties where they are ill provided for first, and change the law relative to the insane poor, so that counties shall not have the management of them, nor any authority over them. The statistics gathered show that out of 1,345 insane, 345 are capable of labor; properly managed, this number would be increased, and there would be gathered into such an institution scores of mild cases now at large, whose friends, unable to support them at the State Asylum, are unwilling to consign them to the miseries of the poor house. By such a regulation, the cost of supporting each insane would be diminished, so that the expense to each county would not be greater, and probably much less than it now is, while the lunatics would enjoy the benefits and comforts of a well regulated institution. The early attention to their care would doubtless insure recovery to a much larger number than now become restored, and cases that progress to violence, filth or dementia, might remain mild and passive.

It is a fearful thought that, among the poor, parents who from the ills of life suffer mental alienation, fathers depressed from losses and anxiety, mothers exhausted with

child bearing and the rearing of a large family, the youthful from vice or disappointed hopes, and the foreigner among strangers looking wistfully back to his native home, that these, all suffering from disease which might be stayed, should be thrust into miserable poor houses and almost compelled to suffer the miseries of incurable lunacy. It is not pretended that all such inevitably become confirmed lunatics. Some indeed recover, but the ratio would be greatly increased with more adequate measures for their care.

It not unfrequently happens that the most important plans for the advancement of either science or philanthropy must be approached and developed through the channels of political economy. To what extent, therefore, is it economy to give the insane of every class the advantages of treatment in a well managed asylum—in an institution conducted on principles of science? And to what extent is it a want of economy to place those who are mentally deranged in circumstances that tend to make them confirmed lunatics? It is not asked to what extent are these propositions humane, but, in dollars and cents, what is economical. The following calculation is based on authentic statistics:—

For example: Of one hundred cases of recent insanity, placed under immediate care and treatment in a proper asylum, about eighty will recover, and the average period will be six months, at a cost of \$5 per week, \$130; add for transportation, \$20, making \$150 each, or \$15,000 expense to the State. But, argues the narrow-sighted official, “they can be supported at the county house for \$1.75 per week.” It is true, and of the one hundred cases, about



seventy will thus become confirmed lunatics, and the average duration of life will be eighteen years, and the cost will be \$1,638 for each person, or \$114,660 for the seventy. At \$2 per week, the cost would be \$131,040. All this misery, and seventy incurables, with a tax of \$131,040, against eighty cured, with a tax of only \$15,000. Is the economy then in favor of the poor house system of care?

Again: The difference in the value of an acre of ground in the heart of the city of New York and on a western prairie, is owing to the greater density of able bodied and clear minded population on the former. The life of each individual has a financial value in the development of the wealth of a State. Horace Mann and Dr. Alexander H. Stevens have fixed this value upon individual life at \$150 per year. At the present time this would be a very low estimate, but by this estimate, eighty lives of usefulness saved, each for a period of seventeen years, would add \$204,000 to the wealth of the State. This includes nothing for the natural increase of population, which would swell the sum to millions in a single generation. Is it not conclusive that the present system of poor house care for the insane is a financial madness, of which no man in his right senses should be chargeable.

The question might be presented with reference to humanity, or advancing another step in the light of christianity, but in that light the false economist would wither as if scorched by the lightning's fire.

I have thus accomplished the service imposed upon me by the Legislature of 1864. In presenting the result of my labors to your honorable body, I have to beg that you

will accept it as a plea from those who, deprived of reason, locked in filthy cells, breathing impure air, neglected and destitute, cannot approach you ; I present it in behalf of my profession, who are constant in urging the claims of humanity ; I present it as a duty I owe the State of New York ; nay, more ; I present it as a duty I owe the Divine Master, who, when upon earth, healed the sick, visited the poor, and made the lunatic to appear clothed in his right mind.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SYLVESTER D. WILLARD,

*Secretary of the Medical Society.*

## COUNTY POOR HOUSES.

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### ALBANY COUNTY.

The year embraced in the report of the Alms House Insane Asylum is from September 1, 1863, to September 1, 1864. The number of paupers varies from four hundred and twenty-five in summer to six hundred and fifty in winter. There have been during the fiscal year one hundred and fifty-five lunatics in the poor house asylum. The ratio of insane is about one in four. Fourteen have died; twenty-eight have been discharged. Ninety-nine of the whole number were mild cases; twenty-one were filthy; sixty-two were males and seventy-three were females; fifty-seven were native and eighty-eight of foreign birth. All have been admitted since 1848. Of the whole number only nine had been treated in the State asylum. Twelve males and twenty females were capable of labor. The large number who were unable to work had no amusement or employment. Only six were destructive to their clothing, and required the straight jacket restraint, or locking in cells. The house has two bath tubs, one for each department, and a full supply of water from the city water works. The insane are required to bathe weekly and to wash hands and face daily. The rooms are supplied with iron bedsteads and straw in ticks for bedding. The diet is intended to be ample, and all who are able go to a common table to eat. The change of clothing is made every week. The rooms in summer are well ventilated. All have shoes in winter. Twelve escaped during the year who were not returned; three were removed by friends. The asylum *was built to accommodate thirty-one* lunatics. There are in confinement at the present time in this space, designed only for *thirty-one*, ONE HUNDRED AND THREE. The greatest number in confinement at any one time was ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY, designed to

accommodate thirty-one!—the alms house asylum of the capital, of Albany!!! Dr. W. H. Bailey, who made the inspection, remarks: "The asylum is a modest two-story and basement brick structure, entirely separated from the other buildings in which are the county poor. There is a small yard for the males and another for the females, into which those who are able may go at pleasure, but the yards are too small and too barren either for the health or amusement of the inmates; that for the males is 53x90, and that for the females 84x102 feet. In them there is neither a tree or a shrub to shield from the scorching sun in summer, nor a bench or a seat on which to rest. They are inclosed by a close board fence about twelve feet high, over which the inmates cannot see, and they stretch themselves on the ground like animals, or creep under the shade of the prison-like inclosure. The sexes are separated; the males occupy the first and the females the second story, the dining room for each sex being in the basement. The sleeping rooms open on each side from a hall extending through the centre of the building. Each of these rooms is lighted by a window. The halls are heated by hot air from two furnaces in the basement, and the rooms receive heat through the doors from the hall. Unless the weather is severe, the heat is ordinarily sufficient, and the unfortunate inmates are comfortable. All who are able are compelled to leave their rooms and occupy the halls during the day time. I regard it as unfortunate that some arrangement was not made in the construction of this building for the weak and feeble. When a lunatic is sick or feeble the heat from the hall is often insufficient, unless the door is constantly open, which is to expose the patient to the noise and gibberish of fifty insane and demented, who are congregated in a single room, making it resound with their vacant laughs and shouts. In summer the windows are a ready and effectual means of ventilation, but in winter the furnaces are not of sufficient capacity to permit a flow of cold fresh air sufficient for the requirements for health. The basement rooms have no means of being warmed or ventilated. In these the boisterous, the vicious and the violent are confined. None are confined here continually, but every new patient is placed here for two or three days *for the purpose of becoming acquainted with his habits.*"

Dr. J. R. Boulware, the present efficient alms house physician, in his recent report to the common council, says:

The Insane Asylum was built originally to accommodate seventeen females and fourteen males. There are thirty lodging rooms

intended for the inmates, and each room was made of the smallest dimensions, compatible with the physical health of a single occupant, nor was it ever intended that more than one should be put into a room. We are now compelled to crowd from three to five of these creatures, who are in the greatest state of helplessness and dependence, into one room, also obliged to use some of the small, damp, air-tight cells, which are below ground, as lodging rooms, whose aerial capacity was never more than barely sufficient to sustain the health of one individual, thus making it appear that the Alms House physician, or those responsible for the management of this important and most sacred of all trusts, are not only willing to leave them in the unfortunate condition of insanity which simply makes them suitable for entrance into an Insane Asylum, but add to it the greater misery which results from the loss of bodily health. This loss of health is but the natural and inevitable result of such abuse. To realise more fully the important bearing of this subject, every individual should make a practical application of it to himself, and imagine a kind relative or dear friend as one of the one hundred and three who are compelled in cold or stormy weather, to crowd into a mere hall or passage way, whose cubic dimensions are such that the air, in twenty minutes, becomes vitiated and rendered unfit to support health, and in the course of the day becomes in the highest degree deleterious and loathsome.

Think of the effect, mentally, physically and morally of promiscuously huddling together so large a number of individuals, of all grades of insanity from mere partial mental derangement, to that complete idiocy, where nothing is left of that intellectual force by which *man* is characterised and distinguished from the *lower order of animals*. Many of them obeying the calls of nature without reference to time or place, some perhaps in convulsions, others roaming, whilst the timid and retreating are trying to escape from the screams and vociferations of the more turbulent. There being no provision for their proper classification, the noisy, the violent, and the filthy; the quiet, the timid, and the convalescent, have to remain in this hall together during the long weary hours of the day.

The standing committee of the Association of Medical Superintendents, in their report on the construction of hospitals for the insane, say that apartments provided for the confinement of the violent insane, should be entirely above ground, and when used for a single patient, should contain not less than 960 cubic feet of air, nor should the ceiling be less than twelve feet in height, with a window communicating directly with the external atmosphere, and well ventilated. Now I find on measurement that these cells instead of containing 960 cubic feet of air, contain about 760 cubic feet, instead of the ceiling being twelve feet in height, it is but seven feet, instead of being entirely above ground, *they are nearly entirely below ground*, and instead of being well ventilated, *they*



*are made air-tight.* In these cells the violent insane, whose insanity is manifested paroxysmally, are temporarily confined until their paroxysms of excitement have subsided. Frequently they have to be confined in these damp, air-tight cells twenty-four hours, when the air becomes vitiated by the offensive exhalations and excrementitious matter. The ingress of air shut off, the effluvia in the cell prevented from escaping, the helpless inmate is thus compelled to breathe into the system this poisoned air, twenty-four or perhaps forty-eight hours, and the effect is not only ill health and a stupid mind, but the prostration of all the powers of the individual, both physical and mental, is the unavoidable and inevitable consequence: and this *dreaded cell* becomes the alembic, in which is double distilled their most bitter cup of affliction.

This picture sad as it is, falls short of presenting this matter in all of its unpleasant features, but enough has been said to make it apparent that this building is entirely inadequate to afford that relief to those for whose aid this department was designed.

Were your honorable body fully aware of this matter as it really exists, I cannot but suppose that the warmest sympathies of your nature would be aroused to respond to the urgent necessities of these insane poor, for surely no affliction appeals more strongly to our sympathy and generosity than this fearful malady.

The improvements deemed most essential, are a building whose relative dimensions to the number of patients, are such that each inmate will be supplied with enough of atmospheric air to support health, and the building so constructed as to admit of their proper classification. Indeed the importance of having enough of pure air to breathe, and the necessity of having the quiet, the timid and the convalescent separated from the noisy and turbulent, so as not to be affected by their screams and vociferations, are so palpable, that they need only to be mentioned to be properly appreciated.

I also wish to mention that there is much credit due the alms house superintendent and the attendants of this institution for the cleanliness of the different apartments of this building. When we take into consideration the great disadvantage of having to keep the turbulent, the destructive and the filthy in the same apartments with the other inmates, this Insane Asylum, in point of cleanliness, will compare advantageously with the best in the State. As far as the patients themselves are concerned, although somewhat ragged each rag is kept clean.

In this case the physician, no matter how diligent and attentive, or how well he understands the subject, is nearly or quite powerless. He can order no healthful exercise nor any system of profitable amusement. He can only prescribe for the absolutely sick. The keeper has done his duty when he turns the key and locked the unhappy inmates fast, or gone in and by intimidation, threats or blows quieted some turbulent demented incurable. The super-

intendent of the alms house has done his duty when he has provided for their daily living, at the cheapest possible rate, and supplied the wants that keep them from perishing more rapidly, or from a more speedy recovery. The alms house committee look at the figures and the quarterly expenses of the Institution, and if they have not exceeded the preceding quarter, they have done their duty, or passing speedily through the hall of the Institution they see the inmates neat and clean and do not stop to think that crazy people need anything more—or if one more benevolent, humane and thoughtful than the rest suggests an improvement, it fails to meet anything more than the discouragement of the board, and nothing is the result. The board of common council still leave all to the committee, and the people leave all to the common council. The police justice is obliged nearly every week to relieve the jail of a lunatic; he must be disposed of; the superintendent of the alms house has no direction, he must receive him, and another deranged person is thrust in the overcrowded apartments and left to his own gloomy hopeless condition to become a confirmed lunatic. The humane and philanthropic learn these facts and lament them, but can do nothing. The time has come when calm judicious legislation is demanded, to interpose and prevent these alarming evils.

### ALLEGANY COUNTY.

Of the poor house and its insane inmates in the county of Allegany Dr. John Norton remarks: "The old block house in which some insane are confined, occupied in part by idiots, is in very bad condition, with no ventilation, old, rotten and filthy, and entirely inadequate for the purposes for which it is used. All the buildings are poorly arranged and badly constructed. Most of the inmates are idiotic, and few are even competent to care for others. With so little help, spite the efforts of the keeper, many must be at times neglected. I found much suffering for want of medical care, as the surgeon employed so seldom visits the institution, and I learned, by those who were competent to speak for themselves, that he gives each case very little attention. I do not think the aged and sick receive proper nourishment. There is but one back yard in which to amuse themselves and get open air, which is entirely insufficient for the variety of cases there represented." These remarks are based on the facts that the poor house has in it eighty-nine paupers, twenty-one of whom are lunatics or idiots.

They have been admitted to the poor house at various periods since 1842. Fifteen are females; six are males; fifteen are natives and sixteen of foreign birth. Eight cases are mild; one has been in State prison; three have been treated in the State asylum; seven are capable of doing some labor. Those who cannot labor have no form of amusement. The house has no bathing tub, and in dry weather the supply of water is insufficient. Thorough ablution is not one of the virtues of the institution. There is no arrangement for uniformity of heat in winter and ventilation. None are without the privilege of coming to the open air *every day, unless the keeper is absent*. There are rooms without a window opening out of doors. All the rooms have bedsteads; one and two sleep in a bed. The beds are ticks filled with straw, which is changed about once a month. There are large stoves in the hall, which are considered sufficient to heat the cells, but no attention is paid to its uniformity or sufficiency. The sexes are partly separated. The keeper has charge of the female insane, and pauper care is the only kind bestowed, beside that of the keeper on the males. As to cleanliness, "some of the cells are quite bad," and the atmosphere in them "very bad." Vermin were found in some of the beds. The insane are only partially separated from other paupers. Eight were removed during the year by their friends. A county physician averages a visit to the lunatics about once a month.

### BROOME COUNTY.

In the Broome county poor house there are eighty-five inmates, twenty-one of whom, or one in four are lunatics. Ten are males, and eleven are females. Only four are of foreign birth. One has been in confinement since 1834. Nine of these cases are mild, seven are violent. Seven have been treated in an asylum. Eight of these insane are capable of labor. Four males and two females are destructive to their clothing, and four males and one female are in constant restraint, by hand-cuffs or otherwise. The other forms of restraint are persuasion and confinement. *Whipping is seldom resorted to*. The house has a full supply of water, but no bath tub. All but three are required to wash hands and face daily. Three are confined in cells above ground without the privilege of coming daily to the open air. There are wood bedsteads in all the rooms but one. Six sleep on straw without beds or bedsteads; the straw is changed once a week. Part are fed in cells, others at a common table. The building is heated by



a coal and wood stove. All the rooms are heated, without observation by a thermometer; it is intended to keep them all comfortable. The sexes are entirely separated at night. None other than paupers are employed uniformly to administer to the daily wants of the insane. The cleanliness of the rooms is commendable, though they are badly ventilated. Vermin were observed. Recent cases are received; one had neither shoes or stockings during the winter, because he would not wear them. The institution is designed to accommodate only five lunatics. They receive medical attendance only when sick. Each case does not receive care with reference to its ultimate recovery. The buildings of the Broome county poor house are insufficient to meet the wants of the insane, but such as they are, are kept in good order, and the keeper and his family are attentive and humane.

### CATTARAUGUS COUNTY.

Cattaraugus county house has forty-nine inmates, seventeen of whom are insane. The lunatics have been admitted at several periods since 1838. Thirteen are of American birth. Thirteen are likewise mild cases; seven are of filthy habits. None have ever been treated in an asylum. Two cases were admitted in 1864, previous to August 12th. Five males and six females are capable of doing some labor. The others have no form of occupation. The violent are restrained by locking them up in a dark room. The house has no bathing tub. Some of the bedsteads are of iron and a part are fastened to the floor. In some of the beds two persons sleep. Straw is used for bedding and is changed as *often as it becomes foul*. The food is distributed in dishes to each one. No attention is given to free ventilation, nor to uniformity of heat in the winter. When indoors the sexes are kept separately; the keeper and his wife have a general superintendence over them. They have clean clothing once a week and oftener if necessary. One had no shoes during the winter. The building is designed to confine twenty lunatics, but nineteen is the highest in confinement at any one time. The insane are visited by a physician every week, and oftener if they are ill, but circumstances do not allow of any treatment with reference to recovery. They are as clean and comfortable as the system of management is calculated to make them.

### CAYUGA COUNTY.

In the poor house of Cayuga county, situated in the outskirt of Auburn, there are seventy-five paupers, twenty-nine of whom are

insane. Thirteen are males, sixteen are females. Eight are natives, seventeen foreigners, and four unknown. They have been admitted at various periods since 1845. Eleven of these cases are mild, fifteen are violent, sixteen are of filthy habits. Nine of these cases have received treatment at the State asylum at Utica.

Ten are capable of performing labor, the others have no amusement or occupation provided for them; twelve are destructive to their clothing and require occasional restraint; the leather muff and confinement in cells being the form used. The house is supplied with water by a well and cistern, but it has no bath tub, nor have the insane any special time for bathing except when filthy. There is a standing rule requiring the hands and face of the insane to be washed daily. [Is it thoroughly enforced?]

The building is of brick, three stories with basement of nine feet, other stories twelve feet, with rooms 8x12. There is a bedstead in each room; sometimes two sleep on one bed, but generally only one. The bedding in ticks is of straw and changed as occasion requires, not regularly. The diet is ample in variety and substance. The building is heated by furnaces, and designed to be made comfortable. The mild and inoffensive have the range of the basement and yards together, but the violent are confined in cells. Several mild cases occupy a room together, but the violent are kept in separate cells. They have only such care as can be forced from pauper attendants. The keeper said that vermin were sometimes found on the persons of lunatics. It is designed on the part of the county to send recent cases to the State asylum. The building is designed to accommodate thirty persons. Dr. Sylvester Willard, of Auburn, who made the investigation, remarks: "All the males are kept in the basement which is above ground, where they eat and sleep, and when not in the yard spend their time in the large hall together, with the exception of the four who labor on the farm. Some cells are especially strong with iron grated doors, for the safe keeping of the violent and destructive. These strong cells being in proximity to the halls may be kept in comfortable temperature in cold weather, *but are very deficient in ventilation.* They have no windows or other openings and no communication with outer atmosphere, except from the hall through the grated door. At the time of my examination two cells were occupied, with one violent and destructive lunatic in each. Their beds were torn into shreds, and contents scattered over the floor. They were filthy in a superlative degree, and their excrements spread over the

floor, on the walls and over their persons; with no means for ventilation or change of air the stench at their cell door was excessively offensive. Under the circumstances it may have been difficult to have had it otherwise. It is due to the keeper to say, that with the exceptions of these cells, the rooms were clean and neat.

The medical treatment is by a homœopathic physician, who visits the House regularly once a week and oftener if required. No medical treatment is made with reference to their ultimate recovery."

### CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY.

Chautauqua county poor house has one hundred and twenty inmates, twenty-seven of which are insane. They have been admitted at various periods since 1848. Two of these cases have been treated in an asylum. Sixteen of the cases are mild, two are violent, and five are filthy. Ten are confined to the house. Four males and five females are capable of doing some labor. No amusement is provided for any who do not labor. In dry weather the supply of water is insufficient and is brought about a half a mile by teams.

The insane are kept in two buildings; one building is of brick, and the bedsteads in the rooms of this building are of iron, and fastened to the floor. Only one sleeps in a bed, except in one bed, which is occupied by two persons. One sleeps on straw without any bed. The beds are filled with straw, except such as are occupied by the sick, which are of cotton or feathers. The mild cases are kept in one building, and the excitable or violent in another. A man and his wife are jointly employed in the care of the violent cases. The rooms are all heated by a box stove, with wood, from the lower floor, the pipes encased passing through the floor above, it is believed by the overseer that no inmates suffer with cold in the winter. Paupers are employed to take care of the mild cases. The rooms are clean and the atmosphere in them is not bad. All are furnished with shoes in the winter, only one would not wear them. The building is designed to accommodate twenty-two, but thirty have at times been confined there. There is no regular medical attendance, nor is ultimate recovery held in view. The duties of the keeper appeared to be discharged in a kind manner, and as well as could be done by any one not experienced in the management of the insane. Dr. Barrett observes and justly, "The attendants ought not to be all paupers." The deficiency in water must be a great drawback to the comfort of the inmates, and the

question might properly be raised whether the system of heating is sufficient to warm the building in winter.

### CHEMUNG COUNTY.

The poor house in the county of Chemung contains forty-eight paupers, eight of whom are insane; just one-sixth of the whole number. Four are males and four are females; all are native born. Two males and one female are capable of doing some out of door labor. Those who cannot work are furnished with neither employment or amusement. They are all represented as being destructive and tear off their clothing; but they require no restraint other than confinement to their rooms. The building is supplied with water from springs at the distance of ten rods off. It has no bath tub or other convenience for bathing, and no special attention is paid to either cleanliness, ventilation, or the uniformity of heat in winter. The building is of wood, two stories high; the height of ceiling being eight feet, and the rooms 8x10. The food for the insane is the same as that for the other inmates of the institution, and served to them by the sane paupers. The lunatics are all confined in one ward, without other than pauper attendants, and without any accommodation for the various grades of their disease. No attention is paid to their ultimate recovery, and a physician only visits them when he is sent for. None of them have shoes, because it is "impossible to keep them on." As to cleanliness and ventilation, the rooms are bad. Dr. Morse, who made the investigation, adds: "The condition of the insane paupers in Chemung county is deplorable in the extreme; and there is no adequate provision made to remedy the evil."

### CHENANGO COUNTY.

There are seventy paupers in the Chenango county house. Twenty are insane. Ten are males and ten are females. They have been admitted since 1840. Fifteen of the cases are mild; about one-third have received treatment at Utica. Eight are capable of some labor. Some effort is made to amuse those who do not labor. Three are destructive to their clothing, one requires constant restraint. The leather muff is used for such purpose. The institution has two bathing tubs in the department for the sane poor, with a full supply of water. It is designed that all shall wash every day hands and face; but the violent do not always. The building is apart from the one used for sane paupers,



is a fine building, has sixteen rooms; ten of them are provided with beds; four cells are provided with bunks fastened to the wall and floor; one and two sleep in each bed; the straw in the beds is changed each month, or every year, according to its use. All the inmates go to a common table. The building is heated with stoves, which through ventilators from the halls, warm the rooms occupied. There are no accommodations for the various grades of the insane. A man and a woman are employed by the year to take care of the lunatics. The rooms appear clean, and the air good as can reasonably be expected. The institution receives recent cases, and will accommodate from twenty to thirty, though never more than twenty have been confined at any one time. Two were removed by friends during the year, and one was transferred to the same department. The lunatics have no regular medical attendance nor care with reference to ultimate recovery.

### CLINTON COUNTY.

No report.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY.

It is a sad spectacle to humanity, that which is revealed in the condition of the insane paupers of Columbia county. There are at the poor house one hundred and twenty-seven inmates, twenty-seven of whom are lunatics. They have been admitted to the poor house at various periods since 1840. Sixteen are males and eleven are females. Twenty-one cases are mild in character. TWENTY-SIX are noted as filthy! Only two have ever been treated in an asylum. Eight males and three females are capable of doing some labor. Others have no amusement provided for them. Five require occasional restraint. There is an inadequate supply of water; there is no bath tub; the lunatics are not required to wash hands and face daily. Cleanliness, ventilation and uniformity of heat in winter are not observed to any particular degree. The rooms have not bedsteads in all of them. *Twelve* sleep on straw without bedsteads. The straw is changed once or twice a week. The building is heated by coal "poorly applied." Mild cases are put with the sane paupers. There are no accommodations for the various grades of the insane. One assistant keeper is aided by the sane paupers in the care of lunatics. The atmosphere in the rooms was very impure and unhealthy. The county takes recent cases. Several were admitted in 1863 and 1864. The females

have a change of under garments every week; *the males none*. None had had stockings during the winter; all had shoes. There is no convenience for out of door exercise. No provision is made for medical treatment; they do not receive any medical attendance at all, nor care of any sort with reference to ultimate recovery. Confirmed lunacy and hopeless idioey is the fate that threatens the unfortunate who passes this threshold.

### CORTLAND COUNTY.

The provision for the care of the insane poor in the county of Cortland is shockingly bad. Of eighty-eight paupers thirty-one are insane; being more than one-third the whole number. Eighteen are males and thirteen are females. About twenty-four of this number are of American birth. Not a single case has ever been treated in an asylum, although several have been admitted for fifteen or twenty years; fifteen cases are mild, nine are violent, and twelve are excitable. Eleven are filthy, several are not only insane but have become idiotic. None of the males perform any amount of labor, six females perform some indoor labor. There is no system of amusement or light occupation to divert the mind of any. Ten are destructive, nine require occasional restraint; the violent are controlled by close cells and straight-jackets. The house has not a full supply of water. The insane are not all required to wash hands and face daily! The arrangement for cleanliness and ventilation is imperfect; several are confined in cells without the privilege of coming daily to the open air!! The building is a story and a-half wood structure, ill adapted to the purpose for which it is used; the ceilings are low, the bedsteads are wood, and usually two sleep in one bed; in one bed three sleep; in some instances a sane and an insane sleep together. Such as are able come to a common table, the others have food carried to them; the diet is such as a farmer's table affords, plain but ample. The rooms are heated in winter with wood and coal stoves, with stove pipes running through the rooms, without attention to uniformity of heat. There is no accommodation for the various grades of insane; but the violent cases are kept in cells in a building off from the main building. In one ward ten are constantly confined. The sexes are not kept entirely separated, and male attendants are employed to care for female insane. The atmosphere in the rooms is generally unwholesome. At this institution recent cases are received! Two cases were received in 1864. Ultimate recovery by manage-

ment or treatment is not held in view. Dr. H. O. Jewett, who visited this house says, "the edifice is a badly constructed affair. It was originally a farm house, additions having been made to it; the cells are seventeen in number,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$  feet, ten feet ceiling in front, the wall above being finished upon the rafters; there is one window of eight lights to each cell. There are really no means except accidental ones, for ventilating the various rooms; and with the present arrangement of the house uniform or appropriate warmth in winter season is out of the question; neither is there sufficient help employed in the establishment to ensure anything like proper cleanliness of the apartments or persons of the inmates. *The common claims of humanity would seem to demand some regulations which will secure more attention to the physical comfort and moral training of each individual, and the special medical treatment of the insane.*" What language can be more explicit or more earnest? Is it any wonder that in such want of care the insane become idiotic or demented, and the mild cases incurable?

### DELAWARE COUNTY.

To describe the building of Delaware county in which the insane are kept, will in some degree show the misery to which those unfortunates are unnecessarily subjected. It is a wood building two stories high, with rooms or cells 4x8 feet, lighted and ventilated only by a diamond hole in the door. Dr. Telford, of Delaware, says, "The windows in the outside are of fifteen lights, 7x9 inches glass. A hall runs on each side of the building, and in the middle is located the cells (after the style of a prison), which are 4x8 feet square, made of rough material, the doors are made of rough hardwood plank, three inches thick, with a diamond hole in them 7x9 inches, *which is the only source of light and air!* Beds are on the floor, with nothing to separate them from where they sit except a piece of plank set up edgewise, and indeed the whole construction is a stigma on humanity."

In apartments thus dark, and cold in winter, and filthy at all times, more gloomy than prisons, twenty-six insane human beings are kept. Ten are males and sixteen are females—and eighteen are American born. Two of them have been so confined from 1842 and 1844—and this Institution continues to receive recent cases! What can be more cruel? And only paupers extend these lunatics the care they receive! There are in all fourteen cells, in which twenty-six lunatics are confined. Four escaped during the year

who were not returned; and who would not escape even to die rather than live such a lingering death? There is no provision made for the medical treatment of the insane, and they receive none with reference to a recovery. The sufferings of these unfortunates from whom the air and light of heaven is shut out, would form a dark chapter of human misery could it be written.

### DUTCHESS COUNTY.

The poor house of Dutchess county with a population of one hundred, contains twenty-four lunatics, or about one fourth of the whole number; eight of whom are males and sixteen females. Thirteen are supposed to be native, and eleven of foreign birth. Nothing definite can be obtained relative to the date of their admission, there being no special record or care for such particulars. Six of the number have been at some time under treatment at Utica. Eleven of the cases are mild, eight violent, and two filthy. Three of the males are capable of labor, and five of the females. The remainder have no occupation amusement or employment. Six are destructive and tear off their clothing, two require constant restraint, either with the straight jacket or with straps for the wrists and belt.

The house has a full supply of water, but no bathing tubs, most of them however wash hands and face daily. The building is heated by stoves and ventilation is only by the windows, it being of wood two stories high, with seven feet ceilings. The rooms are severally 6x6, and 8x6 feet. Two sleep in basements with other sane inmates. Iron bedsteads fastened to the floor are used, on each of which only one sleeps. The beds of straw are changed "as often as seems necessary." The diet is for breakfast bread, hash of meat and potatoes, coffee; dinner, bread fresh or salt meat, fish, and for tea, beans and potatoes, and water. Mild patients go to the table with the sane inmates, and others receive the food in their cells.

There are no accommodations for the various grades of the insane, four are confined in some of the cells. A man and his wife care for the female insane, no other than paupers are employed in the care of lunatics. This institution assumes to take charge of recent cases! The lunatics are visited by a physician the same as the other insane paupers whenever they are known to be sick. There is no attention paid even to recent cases with a view to their



recovery. Two were without either shoes or stockings during the winter.

Dr. E. H. Parker, who collected these facts observes: "It is impossible to ascertain anything concerning them (the pauper lunatics) more definite than is here given viz: that they are fed clothed and kept tolerably decent. No thought is given to curing them. In fact it is no place for one to attempt to do so, a proper insane asylum is required to effect anything in that way with constant medical attendance. The city of Poughkeepsie and the rest of the county are about to divide the paupers, insane and others between them, and for this purpose a new building has been erected in the town of Washington. This does not seem to have been very wisely arranged, but attached to it is a building 22x34 feet, intended for the insane. It is to contain 18 cells in its two stories (9 in each) will have a walk (or hall) between the rooms of cells of about four feet, has large windows to be protected I understand by oak bars, and is altogether so far as I can learn about as unfit a place for the insane as could be arranged. It involves their continual confinement in small cells unless they are very mild, it does not admit of a proper separation of the sexes, or of the violent from the mild, or of proper provision for out of door exercise for either. It is about 20 feet from the main building, and is to be heated by the same steam apparatus that warms that. It is incredible that the authorities whoever they are that have had charge of this building, should have consulted any one familiar with the care of the insane, in arranging its plan. Necessity will undoubtedly compel them to build anew or to modify this. I should add that although I have repeatedly visited the county house, I have not had the good fortune at any time to find the superintendent at home, and am indebted for all my information to his assistant." What language can more explicitly point out an evil, at which common humanity must blush with shame?

### ERIE COUNTY.

The population of the Erie county poor house averages about five hundred. Of this number one hundred and twenty-one are lunatics. At least three-quarters of them are females. Of one hundred and three, eighty-six are of foreign birth. They have all been admitted since 1850. Fifty-five cases are of mild type. Only two cases are noted as having been treated in an asylum. About twenty-four are capable of labor. Sixteen require occa-

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sional restraint and two constant restraint. The straight jacket and a restraining chair are used for this purpose. The house has not a full supply of water. It has no bath tub. All the rooms have not beds and bedsteads. About twenty sleep on straw, without other bedding. The straw is changed once in one or two weeks. The building is heated by stoves for coal or wood. There are no accommodations for the various grades of the insane. The sexes are separated, but paupers only are employed to care for the insane, and to attend to their daily wants. The rooms are generally clean, and the air very good, except in the rooms occupied by the worst cases. The county takes recent cases. Nineteen cases were admitted in 1864. About twenty had no shoes or stockings during the winter. The county house is only designed to accommodate eighty cases, but at times one hundred and fourteen have been forced into it. The very mild cases are put in with the same paupers. Ten or twelve were removed by their friends during the year, and two escaped who were not returned. The physician appointed by the superintendent of the poor-house visits the insane twice a week. Temporary cases are admitted for ten days, of which no account is here taken.

“The largest building for the insane especially, is of stone 118  $\times$  40 feet, two stories high, and has fifty-two cells, with two wards, one for male and one for female patients. The second building is also of stone, 40x40, with eighteen cells. The third building is wood 26x50, with fifteen cells. The accommodations are limited, for so large a number, but every thing looked neat and comfortable. The accommodations are not suited to the favorable care and treatment of the insane. Their construction is not such as is approved by medical and sanitary authorities, and it is impossible to separate patients into proper classes. The air in the rooms occupied by those designated as the worst patients is unfit to breathe. The supervisors of Erie county, at their last session, appropriated \$20,000 for the purpose of erecting another building for the insane, adjacent to those now built, but the four buildings will be detached, and, at the best, illy adapted to the proper treatment of the insane. In fact, the State of New York should maintain, at this place, a charity like the Utica Asylum, as it would confer a great benefit upon society. I assume the responsibility of urging some action in behalf of the insane of Western New York, commensurate with the importance of the subject, the interests of humanity, and the dignity of the State.” These earnest remarks

are from Dr. Josiah Barnes, of Buffalo, who made the investigation in Erie county.

### THE PROVIDENCE ASYLUM.

"This institution at Buffalo, built expressly for the insane by the Roman Catholics, is under the management of the Sisters of Charity. The rooms are spacious and well ventilated. At each end of the building, in each story, is a balcony supported by pillars and a balustrade, so that the insane can enjoy the fresh air, without descending to the ground. The property embraces several acres, and is well adapted for the purpose for which it is designed; and the Sisters, to whose management every thing is entrusted, are indefatigable in their efforts to render as comfortable as possible the unfortunate persons committed to their charge." This institution has twenty-five inmates. It has a free supply of water, and three bathing tubs. The insane have amusements provided for them, and every possible care, with reference to their ultimate recovery, and nothing seems lacking that could promote the comfort and happiness of each patient. Two have died here during the year, and several cases have left, having convalesced.

### ESSEX COUNTY.

The population of the Essex county house is ninety-three. Nine of whom are insane, the ratio being one in ten. The oldest case was admitted in 1830, and is both blind and idiotic, another case was admitted previous to 1850. Three are males and six are females, four are capable of doing some labor. Only one has been treated in an asylum. Four are filthy in their habits. Those who do not work have no mode of pastime provided for them. The method of restraint used is the straight-jacket, and *tying* the hands behind the back. The house has a full supply of water, but no bathing tubs, nor is there any particular arrangement for uniformity of heat or ventilation. The building which is of wood, two stories high, has two rooms without windows opening out of doors. The arrangement for sleeping seems to be comfortable, and the straw is frequently changed. The diet is represented as ample, the mild eat at a common table, while the more violent and raving have their food served in their cells. The attendants are the keeper and his family. The rooms are clean and nicely kept. One insane lives with her mother near the county house. There are

but six cells, and each cell is designed to accommodate but one person, but some are so mild that they sleep with the sane paupers. Recent cases are received! They receive the attendance of a physician whenever they are sick.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY.

It is a circumstance most fortunate that there are only five insane persons confined in the county poor-house of Franklin county, for the record of its condition is shocking to humanity. The whole number of inmates is forty. Two of the lunatics are capable of some labor. One is restrained constantly in a cell, without the privilege of coming daily to the open air. There is a spring of water near by, from which the building is supplied, but the insane are not required to bathe, or even to wash their hands and face, except when they see fit to do it themselves. There is no provision for ventilation, or uniform heat in winter. "Have you bedsteads in all the rooms?" answer "In two only." Two or three sleep on straw, without other bedding: the straw is changed once a month. Of course there can be no provision for the various grades of insane. In the day time the sexes mix as they please, and receive their only care from the sane paupers. The rooms were "not cleanly," and the atmosphere was "bad enough," and the keeper said that vermin were "somewhat plentiful." They have no changes of under garments. One escaped during the year, who has not returned. They have no medical treatment, and are not visited by a physician. Only one case has been treated in an asylum. Dr. Sidney P. Bates says: "I believe the great object had in view by the people of this county, in the maintenance of the poor, is economy." The particular kind of economy is indicated by this report. The poor-house buildings are all old, the roofs leaky, the floors uneven, by reason of the settling of the foundation walls. The buildings are wondrously unfit for the purposes for which they are used.

### FULTON COUNTY.

One-seventh of the inmates of the Fulton County poor-house are lunatics, there being ten of this class, viz. three males and seven females. The whole number of inmates is seventy. Eight are native, and two of foreign birth. All have been admitted since 1857, and six of them have been treated in an asylum. Three males and five females are capable of doing some labor, but at



such times as they do not labor, they have no employment or amusement whatever. Six of the number are destructive to their clothing, and three require occasional restraint. The modes of restraint are by handcuffs and confinement, and the exercise of kindness. The house has a supply of water, but no bathing tub. The insane are required to wash hands and face daily. There is no arrangement for ventilation, or the uniformity of heat in the winter. "Are any confined in basement cells"? "Yes." The building is of brick, two stories high, with ceilings of nine feet, the rooms 18x50, with windows 4x2½ feet. All the rooms have bedsteads in them; the bedding is of straw, and none sleep on straw only. The diet provided is simple, but nutritious, and all come to the table and receive their food on plates. The sexes are kept separated, but they have no other than pauper attendants. They receive no care with reference to their ultimate recovery, the physician visiting the institution only when he is sent for. The location of the poor-house is pleasant and healthful, but in its construction it was never designed for the care of the insane. The county does not hesitate to take care of recent cases, even with such barrenness of means for their care.

### GENESEE COUNTY.

The building in which the insane poor of Genesee county are kept is of stone, two stories high, with ceilings of eight feet. The rooms are 8x10, with windows 2½x4½. It has a supply of water and two bath tubs, and is heated by a furnace in the basement. The number of insane during the year was thirty-five, but only thirty-two were in confinement at the present time. Nine of the number were able to do labor. Six of the males do out of door work. The others were severally amused in singing, reading, playing pennies, swinging, &c. Twenty were destructive to their clothing, and eleven required occasional restraint by the use of straight jackets. They are all required to bathe twice a week, and to wash hands and face daily. The institution has iron bedsteads fastened to the floor. Only one sleeps on straw without proper bedding. The food, which appears sufficient, is carried to each by an attendant on plates. There is an effort to separate the violent from the mild cases. The sexes are separated, and a person (not a pauper) is employed in their care. The rooms are clean, and the ventilation said to be good. The county receives recent cases. Fourteen cases were admitted in 1863, and seven

up to August, 1864. The building is designed to accommodate thirty-five patients. One escaped during the year who was not returned, and six were removed by their friends. Fifteen of the cases were filthy in habit, and nearly all the cases are excitable. Attention is directed to the ultimate cure of each case.

### GREENE COUNTY.

There were nineteen insane in the poor house of Greene county. One was admitted in 1824, one in 1840, two in 1842, two in 1844, others were admitted at various periods since. Six were males and eleven females; sixteen were of native birth; sixteen were mild cases; twelve were of filthy habits; seven destructive, and six were confined to the house; four had been treated in an asylum; one was a cripple, and one a deaf mute. [The blank for further information was not returned, and doubtless there was an omission to send it to the county judge for distribution.]

The report of the committee on charitable institutions in 1857 reported as follows: "Six are confined in cells; five of them are in chains, including two women. They are restrained by confinement, and by wearing chains about their legs and arms. Some are chained to the wall. While visiting the house, the committee observed two men and one woman taken from their cells to the yard for air. There they were all chained to the fence, within a few feet of each other. Those confined in cells are without air, except from a small hole in the door. They are in a wretched state. None are cured or improved, a result certainly to be expected from their present treatment." It is to be hoped that the condition of the institution and the care bestowed upon the unfortunate lunatics has improved since 1857.

### HAMILTON COUNTY.

No report.

### HERKIMER COUNTY.

In the county poor house for Herkimer county there are one hundred and forty-eight paupers, thirty-one of whom are insane. Seventeen are males and fourteen are females. Fourteen of this number are mild cases of insanity; nine are violent, and eleven are confined to the house; eleven are of filthy habits; thirteen have been treated in the State asylum. Most of the cases have been admitted since 1850; but one case has been in the institution



since 1844. One female is capable of labor, and three males of out door labor. The others have nothing to do in the way of amusement or pleasure. Handcuffs and straight jackets are used for restraint. The yard of the building has water in it, and tubs. The only ventilation is secured by lowering the windows. One inmate is confined in the basement cell, with the privilege of coming to the open air *once in three days!*

The buildings used are one story, one being of wood and one of stone, the ceilings being 8 and 10 feet respectively, and the rooms severally 8x5 and 8x6.

The bedsteads are of wood. The ticks are filled with straw, which is changed twice each week. Three sleep on straw alone, without bedsteads or bedding. The breakfast is bread and barley coffee; dinner, meat, potatoes and bread; bread and milk for tea. Each mess is taken to the room for the women. Most of the men eat at a long table in the hall. The house is heated with wood and coal stoves, but no attention is paid to uniformity of heat in the winter, though the stoves are kept constantly burning. The mild cases associate with the sane, and sleep with them. There are no accommodations for the various grades, and to the *wisdom* of paupers is committed the care of the violent.

The full number that the institution can accommodate is twenty-four. The surplus number are kept with the sane. One escaped during the year who has not returned. A physician visits the institution twice weekly, or oftener, if sent for, but the care is merely temporary. The whole arrangement of the institution is bad, and there is nothing about it calculated to improve the condition of the insane; nothing sufficient to make them comfortable.

### JEFFERSON COUNTY.

The poor house of Jefferson county has a population of one hundred and seventy-four; sixty one of whom are lunatics. Twenty-two are males, and thirty-two are females, who have been admitted at various dates within the last twenty years; the records do not show the period at which many were admitted. Five were admitted in 1864. Thirty seven are mild cases. *Only four* of these have been treated in an asylum. Of the sixty-one, six males and sixteen females are capable of labor. All the males working out of doors. There is inclosed an acre of ground on which to exercise, and a swing is erected for amusement. [To what extent

are these useful in the winter and stormy days, and what indoor amusements are furnished?] Eight are destructive to their clothing, and seventeen require occasional restraint by strait-jacket, or handcuffs; confinement in cells and a bath are occasionally resorted to to enforce restraint. The house has a very scant supply of water. It has one bathtub, and the insane are required to bathe once a week and to wash hands and face daily. It is very rarely that any are confined in cells without the privilege of coming daily to the open air. There are bedsteads of wood in all the rooms except the basement. Q. "What is the greatest number who sleep in one bed?" A. "Three to five idiots at times in a large bunk." Straw is used for bedding, which for the idiots is changed weekly, for others less often. The building is heated by furnace and stoves, and a comfortable temperature is maintained.

There is no efficient accommodations for the various grades of the insane. The sexes are not entirely separated. Aside from the keeper and assistant keeper of the poor house, there are none but paupers employed in the immediate care of lunatics. Q. Did you look for vermin on their persons? A. Now and then there are lice. The county receives to its charge recent cases. Five were without either shoes or stockings last winter. Fifty of the lunatics are separated from the paupers and are in the asylum building; eleven are in common with the paupers. Eleven were removed by their friends, between November 1, 1863 and November 1, 1864. Three died during the year and sixteen were discharged. An attending physician, at a salary of \$150, visits the institution twice a week by requisition, and oftener if required. Cases receive care with reference to recovery if not thought incurable.

The county house consists of two separate buildings—"the old poor house," and "the new asylum." Most of the insane are in the asylum. This in the main is well planned and constructed for its purpose and is well ventilated. The poor house part is very badly ventilated. Both are deficient in a supply of water, and conveniences for bathing. The grounds attached are sufficiently large. The main rooms of the asylum are of good size, well lighted and very cheerful. The bed rooms are separated from the main body of the rooms by upright bars, of about 3x4 inches (transverse section), leaving some four inches in space between each two bars. [A sort of cage.] \* \* There are thirty eight bed rooms in the asylum and they are generally without fault.

## LEWIS COUNTY.

There are only forty-one paupers in the Lewis county poor house. Eleven are insane, three males and eight females. It is creditable to the authorities that six of this number have received treatment in an asylum. The oldest resident is a female who was admitted in 1829—thirty-five years ago. She has never received treatment in the State asylum, as hers was a chronic case long before that institution came into existence. Five of the number are able to labor; three are destructive; and three require occasional restraint with leather muffs. The house has a full supply of water, though no bathing tubs.

The building is of brick, two stories high and basement. The rooms are located in the middle of the floors with halls on the outside (after the style of cells in a prison), and the windows open into the halls, (so that the rooms or cells receive light, if at all, through the doors opening into the halls), and the bedsteads are fastened to the walls. For bedding straw is used, which is changed as often as necessary, for some every two or three days. Those who are able, go to the table, and others receive their meals in tin dishes. The building is heated with a furnace. The sexes are not kept entirely separated; male attendants are occasionally employed to care for female lunatics, and pauper help to the keeper of the house is the care they receive. This institution is designed to accommodate sixteen. No case receives care with reference to its ultimate recovery.

## LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

There are in the county poor house of Livingston one hundred and fifteen paupers, of whom fourteen are lunatics. Six are males and eight females; eight are of native birth. They have been admitted, at various intervals, since 1848. Eight of the cases are mild, and several are violent only by paroxysms. Five have been treated at the State Asylum. Five males and four females are capable of labor. The amusement for the others is reading, and walking in the yard and grounds. Two require occasional restraint, either by strait-jacket or by being shut in cell. The house has water, but no bath tub. The insane are required to wash every week, and hands and face daily. Each room and cell has a window opening out of doors. The building is heated by large coal stoves. All the rooms are warmed. The building is superior to most of those in the rural districts. Dr. D. H. Bissell

says: "The treatment of the insane in our county house is all that can be desired for the insane confined there. They are mostly old and confirmed cases, not benefited by medical treatment. They are generally mild in their behavior, with two or three exceptions, and they are only occasionally violent." The inmates are well fed, comfortably fed, and comfortably warmed in winter. The sexes are kept separated, and their care is not committed to paupers. The rooms are scrubbed every week, and the air in them is as good as can be expected where so many are congregated. They have clean under garments every week. The county *does not* receive recent cases, but supports them at the asylum at Utica. It has ten cases there at this date. All had shoes and stockings during the winter. The building was designed to accommodate twenty, but twenty-four have been confined there at one time. Two escaped within the year who were not returned. Those who are kept at the County house are considered *incurables* and receive no treatment.

### MADISON COUNTY.

The statistics from Madison county reveal a most deplorable condition of the insane poor. It is shocking, it is shameful.

The poor house contains ninety-four paupers, twenty-five of whom are insane. They are, with three exceptions, of American birth. The records of the institution do not show the dates of their admission. Inspection shows that fifteen of this number are filthy in their habits, and that only five have ever been treated in an asylum. Nine are capable of doing some labor. The remainder have nothing to do; fourteen are destructive to their clothing. The house has no bathing tub, the insane are not even required to bathe at all, and the violent insane not even to wash their hands and face. It is idle to describe the building, it is heart-sickening to describe what is in it. Eighteen sleep on straw, without bed or bedding; the straw is changed once a week. The food is distributed in tin dishes. No uniformity of heat in winter seems to be aimed at. The mild cases have their liberty during the day. Not so the violent. The only care they receive is from the hands of incompetent paupers. Those confined in the cells are extremely filthy, most of them not using vessels, and their excrements are mixed with the straw on which they lie. Their straw is changed only once in a week; and these lunatics, with their "bodies besmeared with their own excrements, not allowed to come daily to



the open air, eating in the same filthy apartments, are not washed from one year's end to another." The cells in which they are confined are only 4x6 feet, with a ceiling of 7 feet, and open into a hall, so that they can have no ventilation. "A bad stench" issues from them; and in this stench the lunatics are forced to live—live a life more terrible than a hundred deaths. *Three males were in a state of nudity*; the females wore only chemise; but the mild cases are clothed like other paupers. Fourteen had neither shoes nor stockings during the winter!!

This vile prison is designed to make confirmed maniacs of twenty-five persons; that is, it pretends to have accommodations for twenty-five, and their treatment would only serve to make them incurable. The books do not show what is the greatest number confined there at any one time. They are not visited by a physician, and receive no care with reference to their ultimate recovery.

Cannot the voice of humanity be awakened? Shall not legislative authority be exercised for their relief?

### MONROE COUNTY ASYLUM.

The Monroe County Insane Asylum is, by a special act of the Legislature, made a separate and distinct institution from that of the poor house, and is under the control of the board of supervisors of the county. It is a three story brick building, the basement being ten feet ceiling, and the other two stories 12 feet each. The single rooms are 5x10 feet, and the double rooms 8x10 feet. The windows are 2x7 feet. There are four rooms without windows opening out of doors. The building is heated by stoves; and in winter the temperature is maintained uniform by the indication of a thermometer. The lunatics are confined in four separate wards; four occupy the same room. The whole number confined during the year is 105; but the number has been reduced by patients discharged, deaths and absconding, so that only 74 have been in confinement at any one time; 46 were males, 59 females; 38 American, 67 of foreign birth; 54 were mild, and 18 were filthy; 27 had been treated in the State Asylum. Ten males and ten females were capable of labor; but those who could not labor were unprovided with occupation or amusement. Fifty-four human beings, with at least some intellect in action, though not guided by reason, shut up in one building, with neither occupation or amusement! The only restraint resorted to, aside from

handcuffs, is close confinement and cautious showering. This asylum has one bath tub, but not a full supply of water. The lunatics are required to wash daily. All the rooms have single iron bedsteads: some are fastened to the floor. Only one sleep in a bed, and the bedding is comfortable. The diet is respectable. About two-thirds come to a table; the remainder are served in the wards or their rooms. The sexes are kept separated, and all are under the care of the warden and his wife, assisted by two females. The rooms are clean, and the air in the upper rooms good. All had shoes during the winter. This asylum, recently erected, was designed to accommodate 48 patients; 74 are crowded into the space designed for 48 to occupy! Three escaped during the year, who have not returned. The supervisors appoint a physician, who visits the institution twice every week, and often, if necessary, but with reference only to the physical condition of the inmates. Dr. Thomas Arner remarks of the building, "Its design is for the physical welfare of the insane poor, without reference to their ultimate recovery. \* \* \* The personal cleanliness of the inmates, and that of the wards and sleeping apartments, the quantity and quality of food, together with the admirable discipline adopted and maintained, are all that can be desired, and reflect the highest praise upon the warden and others, upon whom devolves the care of this unfortunate class of people. There are deficiencies of an important character still to be provided for, in order to render the institution in all respects complete. In its present capacity the building is designed to accommodate forty-eight persons only, eleven of which number are provided for in the basement. The impropriety of crowding seventy-four insane persons into this limited space, some of which is damp and unhealthy, needs no remark (it needs the severest censure from all humane citizens)." Increased capacity is essentially necessary to the physical welfare of the inmates of this institution. There should also be a more bountiful supply of water, increased facilities for bathing, and for cooking, and for washing, enlargement of the dining halls, and better provision for exercise in the open air. The question whether, in an institution of this character, the treatment adopted should have in view the ultimate recovery of the inmates, cannot at the present be easily determined; and its solution properly rests with those upon whom devolves the responsibility of their care. The following facts are submitted:

All the insane formerly confined in the poor house (under the



old system) have very much improved in every respect, by cleanliness and kind treatment, since their removal to the asylum.

Cases that have been returned as incurable from the state asylum at Utica, have afterwards improved to a marked degree, and in two or three instances nearly well."

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

The population of Montgomery county poor house is eighty-three, ten of whom are lunatics. None of them are capable of labor. Nine are males and one female; seven are of native and three of foreign birth. Eight of this number have been treated in the asylum. They have been severally admitted since 1849. Five of the number are under thirty years of age. Three are destructive and one requires occasional restraint by muff and strap, or cold bath. The house has a supply of water, but no bath tub; the hands and face are "partially" washed daily. The bedding is straw in ticks on bedsteads, one sleeping in each bed. One sleeps on straw without other bedding. The diet is plain and substantial. The rooms are heated by a stove in the main hall. The rooms are generally clean, and the atmosphere of the rooms good. Their garments are changed every week; three had shoes and one had neither shoes or stockings during the winter. Fourteen can be accommodated in separate cells, but thirteen is the greatest number confined there. One escaped during the year who was not returned. The institution receives recent cases, but they do not receive care with reference to their ultimate recovery.

### NIAGARA COUNTY.

One in four and three quarters of the inmates of the poor house of Niagara are insane, there being eighty-nine inmates, of whom twenty-one are lunatics. Nine of them have received treatment in an asylum. Ten are of native and eleven of foreign birth. seven are males and fourteen are females. Twelve are confined to the house; fourteen are mild cases. Three males and one female are capable of doing some labor; six are destructive to their clothing, and the same number are restrained either by straight jackets or leather muffs. *The whip is sometimes*, though rarely, used to enforce discipline.

The yard is supplied with cistern and spring water; there is one bathing tub. There are basement cells in the building with

cement floors, but they are not often used. The bedsteads are of wood, not fastened to the floor ; one sleeps in each bed ; three sleep on straw without other bedding. Such as are able come to the table with the sane paupers.

The building is heated with a furnace, but no attention is paid to the uniformity of heat or ventilation. Rooms with barred doors and grated windows, cells and wards, furnish the only means of grade for the insane. The apartments, with one or two exceptions, were very clean. The sexes are separated, but the attendants are paupers. All had change of under clothing and shoes, but not all had stockings. Twenty-five is the full number that the house is designed to accommodate. Recent cases are received ; four were received in 1864. The medical attendance has no reference to ultimate cure, nor is compensation for medical service rendered with such a view.

### ONEIDA COUNTY.

There are 560 inmates in the poor house of Oneida county, ninety-seven of whom are insane ; forty-three are males, and fifty-four females. Fifty-five are natives and forty-two are of foreign birth. Within the year four have died, nine have been discharged and two have absconded. Sixty of the whole number have been treated in the State asylum, and been returned as incurable or for some other reason. Most of the number have been received into the county asylum since 1850, though the admittance of one dates back to 1843.

About forty of the whole number are capable of performing some labor, half of whom are males. None of the females labor out of doors. Those who are unable to labor have out of door amusements, such as "pitching quoits, playing ball, swinging, fiddling, dancing and singing." The females are amused with books and papers. Fourteen require occasional restraint from destructiveness to their clothing ; for this purpose leather muffs, straight jackets, cold baths and fixed chamber chairs are used. Thirteen are filthy ; five are past seventy years, and one is eighty-eight. The building has a full supply of water, and one bath tub in each department, and beside daily ablution, the insane are required to bathe weekly. The building is heated by furnaces, and every room is ventilated from the ceiling. There are no basement cells. The building is of brick, two stories and a basement, with ceilings of ten feet ; the single rooms are five feet by

nine, and the double one seven by eleven feet, and the sitting room halls twelve by sixty-four feet, and all well lighted. In no case does more than one sleep in a bed ; the ticks are filled with straw ; sheets, quilts and straw pillows constitute the bedding. The fare is wholesome and simple ; the patients all come into the dining hall to the table and are waited upon by attendants.

In the winter all the rooms are heated, and a comfortable temperature is maintained. The building has five wards, and allows of some accommodation for the various grades of the insane. It admits of complete separation of the sexes, and the whole is under the care of a man and his wife, with female assistants. Perfect cleanliness is maintained and good ventilation.

The institution *does not provide for recent cases*, they are sent to the State asylum in Utica. All have shoes and stockings, and some change of clothing, the same as sane paupers. The building is designed to accommodate about ninety patients. A physician is employed who visits the institution twice every week or oftener if necessary, but the treatment has no reference to ultimate recovery. The pauper insane are probably better cared for than in almost any of the other counties of the State excepting New York and Kings. The occasion of this may doubtless be attributed to the liberal influence that is exerted over the public mind by the State asylum at Utica. The fact that it makes no pretensions to the care of recent cases is most commendable, and the portion who first receive treatment at the State asylum is therefore large.

## ONONDAGA COUNTY.

No report.

## ONTARIO COUNTY.

Dr. John B. Chapin, of Brigham Hall Asylum for the insane, says: "The location of the county house is healthy; the grounds are ample. The department of the county house devoted to the insane comprises the first floor of two wings adjoining the main building. There are two day rooms for females and one for males. The increased demand for females has caused the erection of additional accommodations for their care. The day rooms are about 33 by 10 feet. The sleeping rooms are partitioned from these day rooms by open upright bars; the sleeping rooms are six by seven feet; windows on one side of the room in two wards furnish the means of ventilation. The windows are intended to be out of reach, and too high for observation out of doors. They evidently

afford ample means of escape. There are no means for classifying patients. The attendants seem to be superannuated paupers. *There are* no means for properly treating recent and curable cases. The means of escape are abundant, and the disparity of the sexes may be owing to this circumstance. The class of insane now confined are mostly demented persons, who have occasional paroxysms of excitement; they sit with their feet crouched under them, and bent over in the appearance of hopeless dementia. During the summer ventilation is good; in the winter there is probably lack of fresh air and heat. The floors were clean; the walls needed abundance of whitewash. The general appearance of the insane and of the department was cleanly, and there was a disposition on the part of the keeper to do what his means permitted for the comfort of his charge. More efficient means should be adopted to prevent escapes. A suitable attendant should be employed for the care of the insane; a daily inspection by the keeper should be made, and a bath room prepared for more frequent ablution."

The population of the poor-house is one hundred and seventy; twenty-nine are lunatics, the ratio being one in six; twenty-one are females, and eight are males. The dates of their admission are not to be obtained. Five are filthy; a large number are demented; only two have been treated in the State Asylum; five are capable of labor; those who do not work have no amusement; the violent are restrained by a leather muff and by seclusion. The building has a full supply of water for domestic purposes, but not for bathing. The rooms are heated by a coal stove in the hall, and ventilated from windows on the side of the building opposite the cells; all have bedsteads and bedding, and are apparently comfortably fed. There are no accommodations for the various grades of the insane; pauper attendants are employed to take care of the lunatics. The condition of the rooms for cleanliness and ventilation in summer is fair. But two or three had shoes in the summer; [how many were without them in the winter?] The county receives recent cases. Five have escaped during the year who were not returned. There is no sufficient provision for medical treatment, and none is directed to each case with reference to its ultimate recovery.



## ORANGE COUNTY.

The total number of the insane poor of the county of Orange is thirty-eight; twenty-five of them are in the poor-house at Goshen, and thirteen are cared for at an asylum in Newburgh. The county supports four at the Marshall Infirmary at Troy. A large majority of the whole number are of American birth. Of those at Goshen eight males and four females are capable of labor; the others are furnished with no amusement; only three are destructive to their clothing; the restraint used is by straight jacket or shutting in the cells. The house is without a bath tub, and all are not required to wash hands and feet daily. The windows may be dropped to obtain ventilation; [are they?] In all the rooms occupied by insane there are bedsteads, and straw bedding is used; the straw is changed once in two or three months. There is no regular system of diet, but ordinarily good fare is furnished, which is served at a common table to a part, and to others it is taken to their cells. No attention is paid to uniformity of temperature, nor are there any accommodations for the various grades of insane. The sexes are kept separated, but the only immediate superintendence is from an inmate of the poor-house. The rooms are kept comfortably, clean. "Some of the male inmates are believed to have vermin" on them. The institution receives recent cases, several having been admitted in 1864, but no medical attention is bestowed with reference to the ultimate recovery of each case.

The building at Goshen was erected in 1850, and though adjoining the main building is separated from it. It is two stories high, of stone, and through the center in each story a hall extends, with windows at each end for light and ventilation. The rooms open from each side upon these halls. Each room has a window. Inmates are allowed the free use of the halls and of the yards.

In 1853 the town of NEWBURGH withdrew its paupers from the county, and provided for their maintenance by the purchase of lands and the erection of suitable buildings; a residence for the superintendent, and sane paupers, and a wing, communicating by a hall with the main building, for the insane. The building for the insane is two stories, of brick, with a hall through the centre, and rooms opening out on either side. Each room has a window, and a ventilation in the hall. There are here eighty-one paupers, of which thirteen are lunatics; Six are able to do some labor. There are none who require constant restraint. The house has a supply of water, and THREE bathing tubs, and the insane are re-

quired to bathe their whole bodies once in each week, besides washing hands and face daily. The building is heated with a furnace, the temperature regulated by a thermometer; the inmates are comfortably bedded on husks or straw for bedding, each one having a single bedstead; they are also sufficiently and comfortably fed, the diet being changed every day in the week. There is no accommodation for the various grades of the insane, but in each ward there is an attendant for the males, and one for the females. The condition of the rooms are cleanly and neat. There are rooms for thirty-two, but eighteen is the highest number there confined. The institution does not take recent cases. All are kept comfortable. A physician visits the house about four times a week, but the insane do not receive treatment with reference to recovery.

Dr. Wm. P. Townsend, who visited these institutions, in a very able report, remarks "that the selection of persons to superintend these institutions, is too often based upon considerations of business capacity, to the exclusion of any apparent estimate of moral fitness." And again, the management of the domestic, dietetic, and other internal arrangements, are most carefully studied, to the neglect or exclusion of the moral, mental, or even humane necessities of the unfortunate persons compelled by want, destitution or disease to reside therein."

Questions of economy alone explain why such incompetent and morally unfit persons, "selected from the paupers," are assigned to the immediate care of the insane poor. Even if they possessed sufficient capacity for the position, want of interest in the well-being of the lunatics, coupled with the well known infirmities of temper usually belonging to these individuals, should, except in rare instances, forbid their employment in the capacity of nurse." Dr. Townsend urges, however, that keepers should be exempt from the responsibility, since they have no authority in the selection of capable attendants.

"The asylum at Goshen is sadly deficient in means and appliances for promoting bodily cleanliness in the persons of its inmates."

The population of Orange county, in 1860, was 63,812, giving one insane pauper to every 1680 of its inhabitants, to be treated and provided for in our charitable asylums. These facts may well start the inquiry, what can be done to mitigate or improve their condition, or, if possible, restore to them reason enthroned, and capacity for self support? The moral impossibility of giving



the insane proper care, or suitable medical treatment, under the present system of county houses is set forth by Dr. Townsend, the inadequate compensation to physicians, and the necessity of doing something to improve the present state of things, is set forth; and yet, imperative as this necessity appears, the lunatics in Orange are better cared for than in most of the other counties.

### ORLEANS COUNTY.

The oldest resident of the Orleans County poor-house is eighty years old, and was admitted to the poor-house in 1841. The whole population is sixty-five, fourteen of which are lunatics; eight are males, six are females; eleven are native and three of foreign birth. Eight are mild cases, three violent; seven filthy; eight have been treated in an asylum. Three are capable of labor; the others have no employment; all are at times destructive to their clothing; one requires restraint by handcuffs. The building has water, but no bath tub. The building is of wood; the sleeping rooms, or cells, 6 x 9 feet, open out of a hall 9 x 36. No arrangement for ventilation. There is a coal stove for heating the hall, but no attention is paid to uniformity of heat or change of air. There are no accommodation for the various grades of insane; the males are in one ward, and the females in another. The attendants are from the sane paupers. In this county recent cases are sent to the asylum at Utica. All have changes of under garments, and all were provided with shoes and stockings during the winter. The house is designed to accommodate seventeen, but, for the last few years, there have been but fourteen, at any one time, in it. The medical treatment differs nothing from that which sane paupers receive, and the moral management is nothing.

### OSWEGO COUNTY.

There are at the Oswego county poor house seventy-two inmates, and twenty-nine of them are lunatics. Twelve are males and seventeen are females; eighteen are of American birth. The register of the institution does not show the first admittance of these insane. Twenty of these have been treated at the State Asylum in various periods from a single month to nine years. Three males and six females are capable of labor; those who cannot work have some light amusement furnished to them, such as playing chequers, light sewing, &c. Five require occasional re-

straint and one constant restraint. The means used are a leather cap, leather muffs, occasionally a dark cell, &c. The house is supplied with water and has a bath tub in it, in which the insane are required to bathe every week. There are bedsteads in all of the rooms, and only one sleeps in each bed. The diet table appears sufficient and wholesome. The males are confined in one ward and the females in another, and the superintendent, or overseer, his wife and one female assistant take care of the insane. The rooms were clean and well ventilated. The house is designed to accommodate twenty-eight, but thirty-three have at one time been confined in it; but a few of the mild cases are put with the sane paupers. The institution receives recent cases, but to no considerable extent is the treatment directed to effect their cure. The amount appropriated for the medical care of the insane and the whole number of inmates is but one hundred and fifty dollars, inclusive of medicines. Oswego city cares for a few of its own insane without sending them to the county house.

The building at Mexico is 64 by 30 feet, three stories high, with suitable apartments for the insane, and also for culinary purposes. The location is healthy and the rooms have generally a clean, wholesome look. The building is warmed by a furnace and kept comfortable in the winter. The diet was not only sufficient but well cooked. There seems to have been a most commendable effort to send the patients of this county to Utica for treatment. Nearly all of the cases are now of a mild type, which is, perhaps, owing to the modification of the disease by early treatment. These incurables are kindly cared for, and if not all that might be, yet much is done to make them comfortable.

### OTSEGO COUNTY.

There are sixteen lunatics in the poor house of Otsego county, and it is a remarkable circumstance that fifteen of this number are American born. Four are males and twelve are females. Two of this number have been insane since 1837 and one since 1845. Five have been treated in an asylum and returned to the county poor house; eleven have never had the opportunity for a care that an asylum affords. Five of this number are violent and three are filthy in their habits; four require mechanical restraint. One male and four females are capable of doing some labor. Their only amusement is to saunter about the grounds when the weather will permit. Though the house has one hundred and thirty inmates,

there is not a bathing tub in it. The house is supplied with water and the insane are washed once each week.

The building is of wood, with a stone basement, and is three stories high; each story is eight feet. The rooms are 24 by 14 feet. All sleep on beds and bedsteads. They all eat at one common table, and the fare is plain and nutritious. Occasionally three persons occupy one cell. The sexes are kept separated, but they have only pauper attendants in the immediate care of them. Two had neither shoes or stockings during the winter; five have no shoes. They are kept separated from the sane paupers.

Recent cases are received, but they do not receive care with reference to their ultimate recovery. The sanitary regulations are good, and the systems of restraint mild and yet efficient. There is no convenience for the various grades and conditions of the insane. The mild and the violent, the sick and the well, the clean and the filthy, are all confined in the same ward. They are visited by a physician once each week. From 1837 to 1864 is a long and miserable existence in such a place.

### PUTNAM COUNTY.

Putnam county has but one insane person in its alms house. This one can do no labor, she is a female and was admitted about 1854. The case is a mild one, but has never received treatment in an asylum, or with reference to ultimate recovery. One case was discharged from the alms house in March, 1864, having been but a short time in confinement. The case confined is not required to wash hands and face daily, and is cared for by the keeper and his wife. The county takes recent cases, some are provided for in private families, but the returns do not indicate what number. The county house was not designed for the care of the insane, but can accommodate three or four.

### QUEENS COUNTY.

Queens county has but fifty-five pauper inmates in its county house. Eight of this number are lunatics; five are males, and three are females, all are of foreign birth. Seven have been admitted within the last four years. None have received treatment in an asylum. All are mild cases; five are able to do some labor, the rest amuse themselves about the premises without restraint. The house has water, but no bathing tub, and the insane are only required to wash hands and face. There is on the

farm a pond of clear water, with sandy bottom, where they bathe in the summer time if they please, occasionally under supervision. Two and three sleep in one bed; all are comfortably fed and comfortably cared for, and have changes of garments. Recent cases are received, and the county physician visits the institution daily. They all appear clean and neat, and their treatment aims also at their recovery.

### RENSSELAER COUNTY.

Rensselaer county poor house has two hundred paupers; twenty-one of whom are insane. Ten are males, and eleven are females. Only five are native born. About thirteen cases are mild; not one of the whole number have ever received treatment in an asylum, or with reference to recovery. Thirteen of them are filthy. Several of them have been in the poor house so long that it is now impossible to ascertain the date of their admission, they have grown demented, idiotic. Four males are capable of moderate labor, and five females. For the others there is nothing to do, nothing to beguile a single hour of long and weary years. Six are destructive to clothing; three require occasional restraint, the means resorted to are hand cuffs and confinement. The house has a full supply of water, but no bath tub. The insane are required to bathe "occasionally."

The building is of brick, two and three stories high, with eight feet ceilings, and with rooms 12 by 18 feet. Iron bedsteads are used, not fastened to the floor; two sleep in one bed sometimes; the straw bedding is changed four times in a year. The diet is very plain, and sent to such as are not able to come to the table. The only convenience for the various grades of insane is separate rooms for the violent, they have only such care as paupers bestow in their daily attendance. Two escaped during the year who were not returned, and two were removed by their friends. The institution receives recent cases, though it never aims to cure one of them. A physician visits the poor house twice in a week and oftener if necessary.

In 1857, this institution presented a condition repulsive in itself and revolting to humanity. It may be in a cleaner condition now, and there may be none now among the lunatics who are confined without privilege of coming daily to the open air, and who lie down in straw at night. Such was not the condition then, and doubtless there is yet ample room for improvement in the care which this class of unfortunates should receive.



## RICHMOND COUNTY.

In a population of sixty-three in the poor-house of Richmond county, eleven are insane. They have all been admitted since 1853, and two of them have received treatment in an asylum. Six are males, five are females, three of the cases are mild, eight are excitable and six are violent. Two are filthy in their habits, and three require mechanical restraint. Two males are capable of out of door labor, for the rest neither occupation nor amusement is afforded. The building which is of stone, two stories high, is supplied with water, though no bath tub has yet been introduced. The patients are required to wash daily. One case on account of its violence is confined in a basement cell, and as he is a cripple he cannot get out of it, but attention is paid to the ventilation of the room. The other rooms are variously 9x9, 13x7, 13x16, 9x10 &c., each lighted by twelve lights of 8x10 glass. Two rooms in the attic do not open out of doors, they are used for confining female patients when violent. The bedsteads are of iron, only one in each room, and one only sleeps on each. There are none who sleep on straw alone. Those who are confined to their rooms are served with their meals by attendants, the others go to a general table which is abundantly supplied, the vegetables coming directly from the farm. The building is heated by furnaces, though no attention is paid to the uniformity of heat by a thermometer. The attendants for the insane are paupers. Their garments are changed every week. The insane are visited by the physician of the establishment as occasion requires.

The building was never constructed with reference to the accommodation of the insane, but in a wing of the building occupied for the purpose, they are made as comfortable as in any institution of this class. All have shoes, and none were without them during the winter. The appearance of the rooms is clean and tidy. The restraint used is by hand-cuffs, gloves and belt, confining to the bed and confining to the room.

## ROCKLAND COUNTY.

The whole population of the Rockland county poor-house, is fifty. During the year sixteen insane have been among this number, but the list of lunatics in present confinement, is reduced to ten by two deaths, three absconded and never returned. Two of the number had been treated in an asylum. With



three exceptions the cases were generally of a mild character. Six were mentioned as filthy, and six as requiring occasional restraint by confinement. One has been in the poor-house since 1841. Ten were of native, and six foreign birth. Four were males and twelve were females. Only one male is capable of labor. The remaining nine have neither amusement occupation nor employment, except "reading and singing." Five are destructive to clothing. The only mechanical restraint that is resorted to, is to lock up the turbulent in cells. The house has not a full supply of water, nor are there any bathing tubs in it. The building is of wood, two stories high, with rooms 6x10, the ceilings being 9 and 8 feet respectively. The bedsteads are of wood and fastened to the floor. Straw is used as bedding, and is changed about once a week. "The diet is variable," and is served out on plates the same as to the other paupers. The sleeping rooms are not heated. The accommodation for the various grades of the insane is as follows: "The mild are allowed the freedom of the house, and the violent are confined in cells," and only paupers are employed in their care. There is no real accommodation for more than three persons—yet the number on hand is ten. Five is the greatest number ever confined at one time in the cells. Three escaped during the year, who never returned—three insane wanderers or one fifth of the whole number—it does not appear what ever became of them. They receive no medical treatment except when sick.

### ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY.

The report from the county of St. Lawrence shows that the name of *poor* house is no misnomer in that county. It is an old wood building, three stories high, the ceilings being 8½, 8 and 7 feet respectively, with rooms 12x12 and 8x12, and CAGES 3 feet by 7 and 5x10, with small windows opening out of doors, but the cells have no such window. The building is not supplied with sufficient water, nor has it any provision for bathing. In such a building one hundred and thirty paupers are kept, thirty of whom are insane; thirteen are males and seventeen are females; thirteen are natives and seventeen of foreign birth. Only four of this number have ever been treated in an asylum. Fifteen of this number are of filthy habits, and four are destructive. One case was admitted in 1840.

Three of the males and three females are capable of labor. Those who cannot work have neither occupation or amusement,

and though no restraint is used by handcuffs, WHIPPING is resorted to, and the violent are put in *cages* to subdue them! There are no arrangements for cleanliness, ventilation or uniformity of heat in winter. The cells have no windows opening out of doors. The bedsteads are of boards; and two sleep in one bed (or bunk). The morning diet is potatoes, meat and bread; dinner, meat and bread; night, soup, which is distributed on plates or in cups to each one. The rooms are not all heated even in winter, and insane are confined in rooms without heat. At night ten are confined in a single cell. The sexes are not separated, but mingle promiscuously, and the attendants are from the family of paupers, who are grossly unfit to administer to them.

It is a startling fact that in a building not entirely heated, in rooms not heated at all in the winter, three-quarters of the insane inmates had neither shoes or stockings during the cold of winter; and there is no reason to suppose that in such a state of things the clothing is anything like ample. The ultimate recovery of lunatics is not held in view, nor can it be where there is no provision for their care, where they are congregated and kept, without reference to either science or humanity.

### SARATOGA COUNTY.

Between the fashionable resorts of Saratoga and the guests who crowd them, and the poor house of Saratoga and its lunatic inmates there is a sad contrast! The *poor* house of Saratoga has one hundred and fifty inmates, fifteen of whom are insane. Nine are males and six are females, nine are natives and six of foreign birth, eleven of these cases are of mild form. One has been a resident since 1842, and another since 1844. Four of the number are capable of performing some labor, the others are provided with no amusement. Three are destructive to their clothing, and two require occasional restraint by handcuffs or otherwise.

There is a supply of water, but no bath tub, the insane are not required to bathe, nor are they required to wash hands and face daily. There is no arrangement for ventilation or uniformity of heat in winter, all have beds and bedsteads, the straw is changed twice every year. The building is warmed by stoves, wood and coal being used for fuel. There are no accommodations for the various grades of the insane. Pauper attendants are alone employed to care for them. The institution receives recent cases. Five have shoes; in the winter ten had neither shoes or stockings!

There are ten cells, into which twenty lunatics have at times been crowded. No provision is made for medical treatment, they are visited only when sick; no case is treated with reference to its ultimate recovery.

The select committee on "charitable institutions &c.," in 1857 said, 'of this institution of the inmates ten are lunatics, three males and seven females, all are paupers. They receive no special attendance. Five are confined at times in cells, and some are restrained at times by shackles and handcuffs. The keeper reports that some have been improved. Lunatics have escaped from the house and not again been found. Eleven of the inmates are idiots, five males and six females; all are over ten years of age.'

This house is old and badly dilapidated. The rooms are low, sadly out of repair, and the air in the sleeping rooms most foul and noisome. It is very well attended however by the present keeper, and is kept in as good order as possible.

"Corporeal punishment is administered to men women and children."

Dr. Gilbert in 1864, says: "The building is old and considerably dilapidated. The foundation has settled unevenly, giving a degree of distortion to the floors and ceilings; and the ceilings are cracked and crumbled off. The floors are somewhat more uneven from the knots protruding, and particularly around the outside doors, which are somewhat decayed. The ceiling in the rear part of the building is broken and low, the windows are small and loosely fitted, the base shrunken leaving an open space and thereby rendering it cold and uncomfortable in cold and damp weather. The furniture as the bedsteads and chairs are very old and worn. The bedding is cotton and quite ordinary, yet in a majority of the rooms clean, the floors and woodwork clean also. The inmates were thinly and poorly clad, yet clean and tidy, and apparently healthy."

There has evidently been no improvement. The miserable old prison of 1857, and the rickety and ill-arranged gloomy place for confining the unfortunate insane poor of 1864, is one and the same—a burning disgrace to the county and the State.

### SCHENECTADY COUNTY.

In June the inmates of the poor house of Schenectady county numbered ninety-one [the November number is one hundred and twenty-one.] Twenty-five are lunatics. They have been severally

admitted since 1850. Nine are males and twelve are females. Thirteen are of native birth. Eight are mild cases, and four are filthy. It is creditable that sixteen of these cases have been treated in an asylum. Six are capable of labor; others have sewing, books, newspapers, sunday school papers, and the liberty of the yard to amuse them. One female requires constant restraint, two males and three females require occasional restraint. Muffs are used and a closed cell in the second story. The house has two good wells and one cistern, but no bath tub. The insane are not required to bathe, though their hands and faces are washed daily. The building has no basement cells. The bedding consists of ticks filled with straw, and the straw is changed once a month. One sleeps on straw without other bedding. In several of the beds two persons sleep. The halls are heated by registers from furnaces; but no attention is paid to the uniformity of heat in the winter. There are no accommodations for the various grades of the insane. The sexes are not separated except at night; one attendant beside the paupers is employed in the care of the lunatics. The rooms were clean and the atmosphere in them "excellent." The accommodations are separated from those of the sane paupers; the accommodation is designed for thirty persons, twenty-five being the highest number ever confined. The insane are visited by the county physician twice a week, or when required. The institution does not receive recent cases.

Dr. A. M. Vedder says, "the attention paid to the insane of this county will compare favorably with any public or private asylum in the State. I am familiar with the treatment of the insane in Philadelphia, and think our insane quite as well cared for as theirs." Awarding all due credit to the care bestowed upon the insane poor in Schenectady county, which is certainly better than in some of the adjoining counties, we must beg to differ widely from Dr. Vedder in the first part of his opinion. Where there is no bath tub, where insane are not required to bathe, where but one attendant beside paupers is employed to care for the insane, where they are not seen by the physician more than twice a week, the care can hardly challenge comparison with that received at the State Asylum or Brigham Hall.

### SCHOHARIE COUNTY.

Schoharie county poor house has eighty-one inmates. It has three insane. These are not separated from the sane paupers, but



live and mix with them. The mechanical restraint used to control one is to TIE HER TO THE BED WITH A ROPE.\* The house has not a supply of water. It has no bathing tub; the insane are not required to bathe. The rooms are only ventilated by the windows. The sexes are not separated; they have only the care which paupers give them. The county receives recent cases. In a word, no possible provision is made for or care given to the insane of Schoharie county; and it is most fortunate that there are only three of them.

### SCHUYLER COUNTY.

Schuyler is seemingly the county of sane people only. There is but one insane person supported by the county, and he is cared for in the family of his brother, and is without restraint, being a mild case. He has been treated in the asylum, and is now capable of some labor.

### SENECA COUNTY.

The county house in Seneca county has sixty-five inmates, thirteen of whom are lunatics. One was admitted in 1830, one in 1843, one in 1845, one had received treatment at Brattleboro and at Utica, and six others in Utica. The ratio of those receiving asylum treatment is one half. Four of the six that have received treatment at Utica are now mild cases. Four cases are filthy and four destructive. Nine are males and four are females. Eight are of American birth. Three are capable of doing out of door work. Some of the females are employed with patch work and knitting. The only means resorted to for controlling the violent is by confining them to their rooms. The house has not a full supply of water. The rooms are provided with bunks for sleeping. The bedding is straw and feathers, the straw being changed once a month or oftener. The diet is represented as ample in material and variety. The males all come to the table; three females carry food to the others on plates. There is no convenience for the various grades of insane; the more violent are not allowed to have their liberty. All are cared for by a keeper and his wife, who of course have no possible knowledge about the scientific management of lunatics. The rooms are clean and well ventilated and the clothing is comfortable and sufficient. The institution has sixteen rooms; the greatest number in confinement is fourteen. A physician visits the institution weekly, or when necessary; but no case is treated with reference to its recovery.



## STEUBEN COUNTY.

The county house of Steuben has ninety-five inmates, of whom eighteen are insane. Three others had been confined during the year, but had escaped without being returned. Nineteen were of American and three of foreign birth. One was admitted in 1839; all the rest since 1850. Ten of the number had at some time been treated in an asylum, so that the dates of admission do not show conclusively the full period of lunacy. Twelve are capable of labor. The others are provided with neither employment or amusement. The mechanical restraint employed is a close room and handcuffs. The house is supplied with water by three wells and two cisterns, but it has no bathing tub, and it is doubtful if the insane are required to wash daily. No arrangement is made for cleanliness, ventilation or uniformity of heat in winter. The material used for bedding is straw, in ticks, not frequently changed. The cells are warmed only through the hand holes in the doors of the cells from the heat in the common hall. In the house the sexes are separated, but not so when they go into the yard. Paupers give them what care they receive. The rooms are far from clean, and the air in them more or less fœtid. Recent cases are received at this institution, which is designed to accommodate thirty or forty. Its whole condition may best be set forth in the language of Dr. A. H. Cruttenden, who made the investigation:

“But few remarks can be offered in this connection without entering upon an elaborate criticism of the house, grounds and management of the institution in extended detail. Enough that the institution comes far short of the standard to which an enlightened community, with abundant recourse, should aspire. The grounds, though ample and possessing many natural advantages and surroundings for a true home of charity, are really destitute of an attractive feature, chilling to every sense of refinement or charitable sentiment.

“The buildings pertaining to the poor house proper are old, comfortless, illy constructed, and never suited to the purposes for which they were designed. The insane house, though new built, of brick, and sufficiently large for the accommodation of its present number of inmates, is badly arranged. The cells are too small, with no provisions for ventilation. The air even now, in summer, when doors and windows are open, is burdened with noxious vapors and effluvia inconsistent with health or comfort to the inmates. The facilities for warming are very imperfect, so much so that patients confined in cells must suffer in extreme weather. The common hall is warmed by registers from a fur-

naee in the basement, and the cells only through hand holes in the doors, 6x8 inches square. The building is two stories. First, occupied by males; the second, by females. The brick walls are unplastered, coarse and repelling, the partitions made of 1½ to 2 inch plank unmatched, and now shrunk so that large fissures are exposed for the harboring of chinch and other vermin. Close stools constitute a portion of the fixtures of the cells, connecting with the vaults below (though these are now closed against use). The idea is repelling, though the fact in part has been superseded. The bed ticks, by their collapsed condition, indicate a short supply of straw, and that old and well worn. Bed clothing, blankets and sheets (when existing), are worn with age, and have suffered long for soap and water; and even the patients throughout the house, in person and clothing, indicate most clearly that the institution is far from being hydropathic in its tendencies. The rooms are, many of them, lumbered up with old trumpery, old cloths, rags, bottles, old tobacco pipes, &c., &c., in a most untidy condition, save in two or three instances where the patients had a very healthy impulse towards cleanliness, be it sane or otherwise.

“One of the most evident evils connected with the institution is the want of systematic classification of its inmates. Male and female, old and young, sick and well, sane or otherwise, the vicious, profane and unclean with the virtuous, gentle and religious, are massed together in a common herd. In fact the house is a sort of store room, where are thrown in together the odds and ends of a depraved and degenerated humanity—a hot-bed for the rearing and nurture of paupers, without an effort to reclaim from vice, folly or disease.

“No especial provisions are made for the medical treatment of the insane. A physician is employed by contract, who is required to visit the house twice a week (a ride of two miles), subject to all accidental calls, and furnish his own medicine, for some years past; awarded to the lowest bidder, at \$50 a year. These facts taken in connection with the population of the house, ranging from one to two hundred—a proportionate large number of children and infirm persons—very little at best can be expected from the medical service rendered the institution towards alleviating the condition of these unfortunate creatures. Indeed it is little use to write or talk; the half cannot be told.

“The county house of Steuben is and has been since I have known it, a bye word, a shame and disgrace to the county, and yet much credit is due to the keeper, and not a little to the respective superintendents for doing all they can perhaps in their respective positions, and the circumstances under which they are compelled to act. But true it is, all have a responsibility in the premises; it is an institution of the people, for the people, and is an honor or otherwise, as it nears the full meaning of its lofty and christian purpose.”

## SUFFOLK COUNTY.

There is no county house or lunatic asylum in Suffolk county. The custom is to send all troublesome lunatics either to the New York State asylum at Utica, or to the asylum at Brattleboro, in Vermont. The investigation was not pursued to find the number of insane in private families; nor is the number that the county supports stated; probably it is small. It is a wise plan the authorities pursue.

## SULLIVAN COUNTY.

The building in which the insane poor of Sullivan county are confined, is fifty yards from the poor house. It is roughly constructed and sets low on the foundation. The frame is hemlock, planked and sided with the same material. It is divided in one room through the center, with cells on either side all unfinished. The centre room is heated by stove and the cells are only heated from this room either by a door or an aperture through the door. The rooms in the poor house building for the accommodation of the more mild cases are 10x10 feet. The number of paupers is sixty-four; twelve are lunatics; four are capable of labor. Those who do not labor have no form of amusement or occupation. The house has water but no bath tub. No arrangement is made for ventilation. There are three rooms that have no window opening out of doors. Seven sleep on straw without bedsteads or beds, the straw being changed (as for horses), some every day others once a week. The building is heated by stoves with wood for fuel. No attention is paid to the uniformity of heat in winter, nor to ventilation. Only paupers are employed to care for the insane. The cells were tolerably clean, but the atmosphere not good. The arrangement is made for sixteen lunatics, but twelve is the greatest number confined at any one time. It is creditable to say that six of the number confined have at some time received treatment at Utica. The county receives recent cases, but does not make provision for their treatment with reference to their recovery.

## TIOGA COUNTY.

Dr. L. H. Allen, of Tioga county, remarks, "It will be seen at a single glance, that the insane in our poor house are in a most miserable condition. Pity and disgust are at once excited. Under existing circumstances it is impossible for the keeper to improve the condition of those who are confined in cells. Nothing short of

a new and properly constructed building can meet the demands of this unfortunate class of persons. When the county will feel able and willing to make the outlay I cannot say."

There are in the poor house eighty-five paupers, twenty-one of whom are lunatics. Six of the number are of foreign birth. Thirteen are males and eight are females. The records do not show the years of their admission. One has been confined for more than twenty years. But five of these cases are classed as mild; eleven are of filthy habits; six have been treated in an asylum; several are idiotic. Four males and four females are capable of labor. Those who do not labor have no form of amusement. Ten are destructive to their clothing. The house has water but no bath tub. The insane are not required to bathe at all, nor to wash hands and face daily. Insane are confined in cells without the privilege of coming daily to the open air. The light is admitted into their cells through a grating in the front of the cell. Bunks are used in some of the rooms, with straw, upon such eight sleep; others have straw in ticks. The food is distributed in tin basins, or put into the hands of the individual. The building is heated by a coal stove in the hall, which can at best only imperfectly heat the cells. [The plain truth is that in very cold weather it does not heat them at all.] No attention is paid to the uniformity of heat by a thermometer. There are no accommodations for the various grades of the insane. The sexes are not entirely separated. Male attendants are employed to take care of the female insane, and they only paupers; pauper attendants for all the lunatics. The rooms are filthy, and the air in them bad. This institution receives recent cases. Mild cases have their garments changed weekly. Five had neither shoes nor stockings during the winter. The building is designed to accommodate only eight. It has now in it twenty-one! The cells are in two separate outbuildings. They are seldom or never visited by a physician. No case receives care with reference to its ultimate recovery.

### TOMPKINS COUNTY.

The building which contains the cells for the insane is an addition to or an extension of the main building for the poor. It is but one story high, and contains nine cells, varying in size as follows: 8x8 feet, 6x7 and 5x7. These cells have no windows; and when the insane are allowed to go out, they mingle with the sane paupers; but if they are confined at all, it must be in these cells,



and they are so confined the most part of the time. The population of the county house is fifty-six. Only six are insane; one other was sent to the State asylum, and one other died. Of the six remaining, one had received treatment in the asylum. Three were able to perform some labor; two required occasional restraint, by handcuffs or shutting in cells. The house has no bath tub, and the insane are required to wash hands and face only *three times a week*. All the rooms are not supplied with bedsteads; one sleeps on straw, without other bedding. Two eat in their cells, and the others come to the table with the sane paupers, from whom they receive such care as they get. In the cells the air was impure, and one was very filthy. The institution receives recent cases. Their under garments are changed on Sundays. All had shoes during the winter, except one. The lunatics are not visited by a physician unless they are specially sick; and no case receives care with reference to its recovery, even though it be a recent case.

### ULSTER COUNTY.

The examination from Ulster county shows that in the poor house there are twelve insane paupers, three of whom are males, and nine females; all of whom are registered as having been admitted since 1859; but as three of them have been treated in the lunatic asylum, the date is not an index to the period of their lunacy. None of this number are capable of any labor; at least none are furnished with any suitable employment or amusement of any kind. Two of them require restraint a part of the time, and one constantly. Two are both violent and filthy. The house is represented to have a full supply of water, though it has not a single bathing tub for its one hundred and thirty-five inmates! The building is of wood, one story high, and the rooms are six feet by nine and a half. Not all the rooms have bedsteads in them; two sleep on straw, without either bed or bedsteads. And the food is served "the same as rations," by which it may be understood that each insane person is handed a certain quantity of food. The building is heated with stoves, without any special regard to a uniform temperature. The sexes are kept separately, but male attendants are employed to care for the female insane, and they are pauper inmates of the institution. After this style the provisions of the county house is for twenty-six insane. In this remarkable state of things, to the question "Does each case



receive care with reference to its ultimate recovery?" the reply is, "It does!" A physician visits the institution twice in each week. In 1857 the committee appointed to visit charitable institutions, &c., reported of this as follows: "Of the inmates fifteen are lunatics—three males and twelve females. Five have been admitted during the present year. They receive no special medical attendance, but a *male* attendant supplies their ordinary wants. *Ten* are confined in cells, and one restrained with chains. Beside the main building are several small old buildings on the premises, in one of which—a very poor one—were twelve cells for lunatics, very open, and where it is barely possible to keep them from perishing." "In the house are twelve idiots—four males and eight females. Two of the females are under sixteen years of age." The investigation of 1864 fails to show any considerable improvement in the care of the insane paupers in Ulster county.

### WARREN COUNTY.

While in several counties the ratio of insane to the paupers is one in four, in Warren county it is but one in seventeen and a fraction. There are fifty-four sane and three lunatics in the county house. The number is so small that they receive no particular care, nor is any special provision made for them; they do not labor; they are locked in cells if violent; they sleep on bunks; their diet is pork, potatoes, bread, beans, &c., and milk once a day; two eat at the table; to one the food is carried. They are cared for by paupers only. In the female apartment the atmosphere was *bad*. The county takes recent cases. No provision is made for medical treatment, and they receive none.

In short, the insane take their chances, and receive no care worthy that name.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY.

The Washington county poor-house is a three story brick building, with nine feet ceilings, the rooms being seven by eight and eight by ten, lighted by windows two feet square. The whole number of inmates is (120) one hundred and twenty, of which thirty-six are insane. Several were admitted previous to 1840. Three are past seventy years of age. Thirteen are males, twenty-three are females; twenty-five are of native birth; ten have been treated in an asylum; twelve are capable of doing some labor. Those who do not labor have no light occupation or amusement, except going into the yard when circumstances admit of it. One

is constantly restrained by hand cuffs. The building is supplied with water, and has one bath tub; the insane are required to bathe occasionally.

The bedsteads are of wood; the bedding, straw and feathers. Two sleep on straw without bedstead or bedding. Those who are able eat at a common table, others have their food distributed to them. No attention is paid to the uniformity of heat in the winter, though it is designed to keep the rooms comfortable. Two are often confined in a single cell. The attendants employed to care for the insane are paupers. The county receives recent cases. The building is designed to accommodate fifty. They receive no medical treatment with reference to an ultimate cure. Cleanliness, comfortable clothing and sufficient food are the three virtues of the institution. It aims at nothing more.

### WAYNE COUNTY.

Of eighty inmates in the poor-house of Wayne county, twenty are lunatics, or one in every four. They have been severally admitted since 1850; thirteen are males and seven are females. Fifteen are of native birth. Fourteen of the cases are mild; two have been discharged during the year, and two have been sent to Utica for treatment. Previous to September, four cases were admitted in 1864; nine cases were admitted in 1863. Five males are capable of doing some labor; the only amusement for the others is going in the yard when the weather will admit of it. One is constantly restrained by handcuffs. The house has no bath tub, and the insane are not required to bathe more than their hands and face daily. One is confined in a basement cell without the privilege of coming daily to the open air. All the inmates have beds or bedsteads, none sleep without them; the straw in the beds is changed every two months. Their food is served on tin plates in their rooms. The rooms are heated by stoves in the hall, but no attention is paid to uniformity of heat in the winter. The rooms are neat and clean; in most of them the air is good. It is intended to separate the insane from the sane paupers. The accommodations are designed for ten lunatics, though twenty are now in confinement, crowded into the meagre room designed for ten. Three escaped during the year who are not returned, and two were removed by their friends. There is no provision for their management or treatment with reference to recovery. The county receives, as will be seen, recent cases. A

new building designed to be used exclusively for the insane is in process of erection.

### WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

To a population of two hundred and twenty-five in the poor-house of Westchester County, twenty-two are lunatics. Seven are males, and fifteen are females. Three-quarters are of foreign birth. Seventeen of these cases are of mild form of insanity. One was admitted in 1829. It is not known that any of the whole number have been ever treated in an asylum. Several have been admitted to the poor-house for the second or third time. Four males, and eight females are capable of labor. Those who do not labor, have no amusements or employment. The manner of restraint and coercion is by straight jacket, handcuffs, and confinement. The house has a full supply of water, and two bathing tubs, in which, however, the insane are washed and bathed at no particular times. The building is of stone, two and a half stories high, with eight feet ceilings, and rooms 8 x 5 feet. The cells are in the centre of the building, with corridors, after the style of a prison and penitentiary, and receive their light only through the doors. They are, of course, dark and ill ventilated, and there is a total and studied absence of all that contributes to cheerfulness or mental elasticity. The building is heated by furnaces, and a comfortable temperature is maintained in winter, but there is no provision for the various grades of the insane. The sexes are separated, the males in one ward, and the females in another, with pauper attendants, and one male assistant in the care of the female insane. The general appearance of the rooms is clean and tidy. Provision is made to confine twenty-five insane, but thirty-nine have at times been forced into the space designed for twenty-five. All have shoes, and their under garments are changed weekly. Whenever they are sick, the physician of the alms-house visits them, but they never receive treatment with reference to their convalescence, yet the county does not, in view of such a startling fact, hesitate to receive recent cases for confinement, not for cure.

### WYOMING COUNTY.

No report.

### YATES COUNTY.

Yates county poor-house has eighty-seven paupers, fifty-four males and thirty-three females. Six are insane, one male and five

females ; four of the females work a little, or, if unable to work, they amuse themselves in the care of pauper children. The male patient requires occasional restraint, but only confinement in a cell is resorted to enforce restraint. The house has one bathing room, and is supplied with water, except in dry times in the summer. The insane are required to bathe every one or two weeks, and to wash hands and face daily. The more rational room and sleep with the paupers, and eat at a common table with them. One male and one female are each confined in a separate cell. The county receives recent cases for treatment, and they are visited by a physician about once a week. They are usually healthy, and have the appearance of being comfortably and carefully taken care of.

*Table Showing the Summer Population of Poor Houses, the Number of Insane, and the Number Capable of Labor in Each.*

	Summer population.	Insane.	Capable of labor.
Albany.....	425	145	32
Allegany.....	89	21	7
Broome.....	85	21	8
Cattaraugus.....	49	17	11
Cayuga.....	75	29	10
Chautauqua.....	120	27	9
Chemung.....	48	8	3
Chenango.....	70	20	8
Clinton.....	--	--	--
Columbia.....	127	27	--
Cortland.....	88	31	6
Delaware.....	--	26	--
Dutchess.....	100	24	8
Erie.....	500	121	12
Essex.....	93	9	4
Franklin.....	--	5	2
Fulton.....	--	10	8
Genesee.....	--	32	6
Greene.....	--	19	0
Hamilton.....	--	--	--
Herkimer.....	148	31	4
Jefferson.....	174	61	22
Lewis.....	41	11	5
Livingston.....	115	14	9
Madison.....	94	25	9
Mouroe.....	--	74	20

	Summer population.	Insane.	Capable of labor.
Montgomery .....	83	10	0
Niagara .....	--	21	4
Oneida .....	--	97	40
Onondaga .....	--	--	--
Ontario .....	170	29	5
Orange .....	--	38	12
Orleans .....	--	14	3
Oswego .....	--	29	9
Otsego .....	--	16	5
Putnam .....	--	1	0
Queens .....	55	8	2
Rensselaer .....	221	20	4
Richmond .....	63	11	5
Rockland .....	50	10	1
St. Lawrence .....	130	30	6
Saratoga .....	130	15	4
Schenectady .....	121	25	6
Schoharie .....	81	3	--
Schuyler .....	--	1	1
Seneca .....	65	13	3
Steuben .....	95	18	12
Suffolk .....	--	--	--
Sullivan .....	64	12	4
Tioga .....	85	21	8
Tompkins .....	56	6	3
Ulster .....	--	12	--
Warren .....	54	3	--
Washington .....	120	36	12
Wayne .....	80	20	5
Westchester .....	225	22	12
Wyoming .....	--	--	--
Yates .....	87	6	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1345	385
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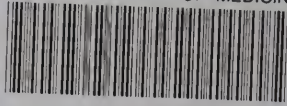
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